merry christmas
from
SRoMU

紺野キタ

BIRZ COMICS GIRL'S COLLECTION

# Dark Seed 2

Kita Konno

## 「闇の種子（ダーク・シード）」覚醒!!

邪悪な力をふるいはじめた少年・ニコル。
彼を封じる[illegible]目を負った魔法使い予備生セレストだが!?

Webコミック・スピカ連載中
注目のマジカル・ファンタジー!

BIRZ COMICS GIRL'S COLLECTION

Dark Seed
―ダーク・シード―
2

紺野キタ

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Story

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毎月20日配信 スピカ
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Dark Seed ―ダーク・シード― 大好評連載中!!
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# Dark Seed 2

Rita Kanno

# Dark Seed

-ダーク・シード-

2

紺野キタ

Kita Konno

Credits

Chapter 6

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# Dark Seed

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# Dark Seed (ダークシード)

## 2


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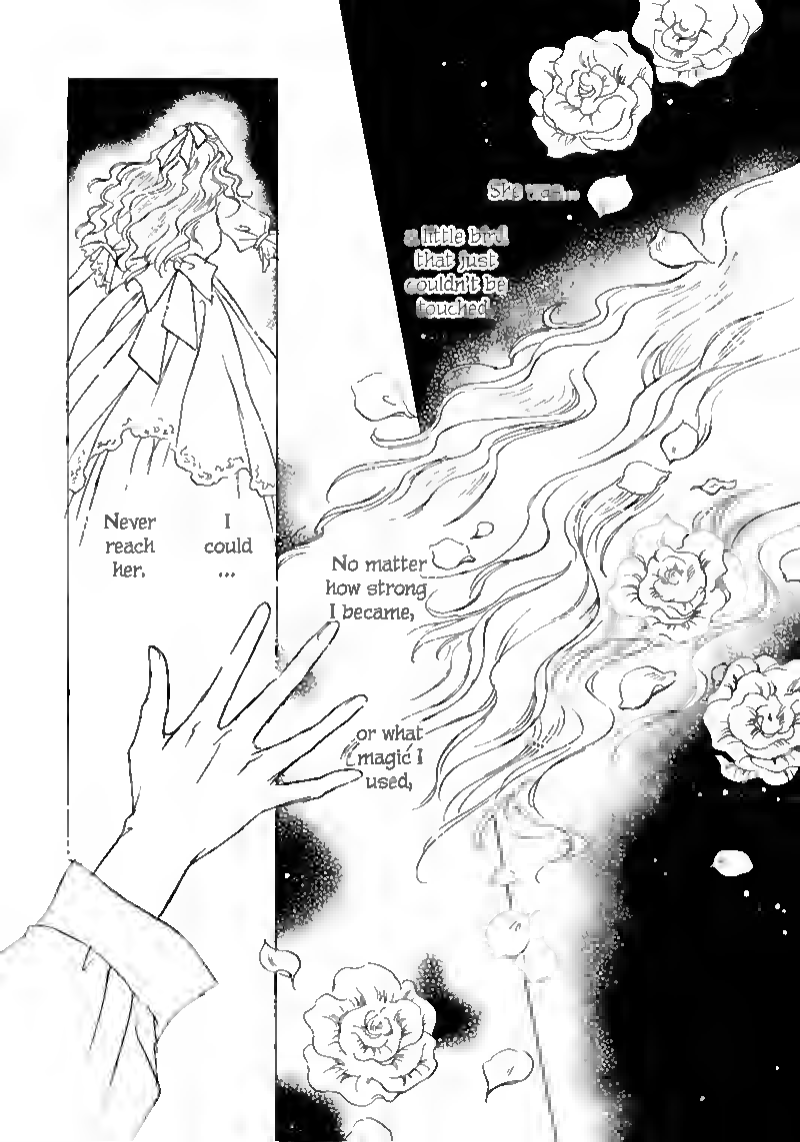
10 Speculation ..... 149


Kita Konno

You seem to enjoy what we release here at SR°MU.
Would you like to help us release more of your favorite manga?
GLARE
Apply! We need Japanese Translators! Editors! Quality Checkers! And all sorts of people to help us out!
How you say?
Sure ...
But ... how?

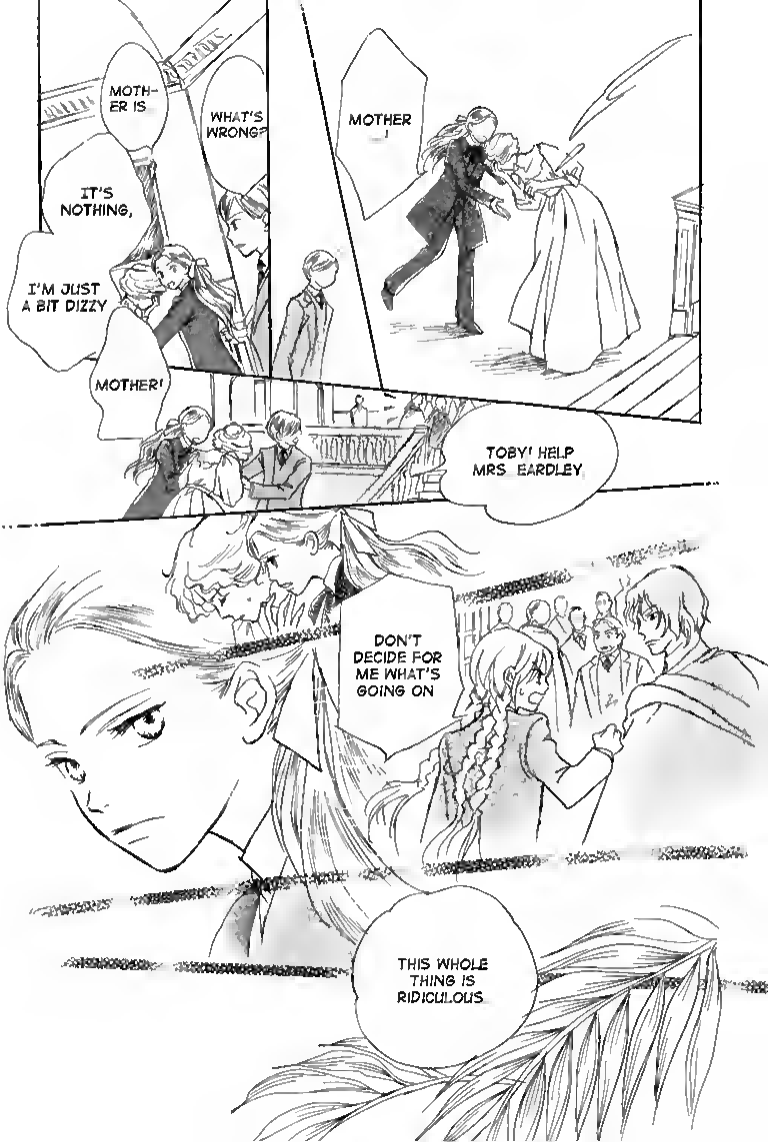
# 6

## The Back Garden of the Sages


She was...
a little bird
that just
couldn't be
touched
Never
reach
her.
I
could
...
No matter
how strong
I became,
or what
magic I
used,

I only frightened her,
Why not in mine?
She felt safe in his arms.
Like the mother who despised me.
Please...
Don't be afraid of me.
Don't run away.

My dearest Celia.
HERE BEFORE US IS,
THE ONE MARKED TO CARRY ON THE LEGACY
CELESTE
SHE IS, THE INHERITOR.
MOTHER?

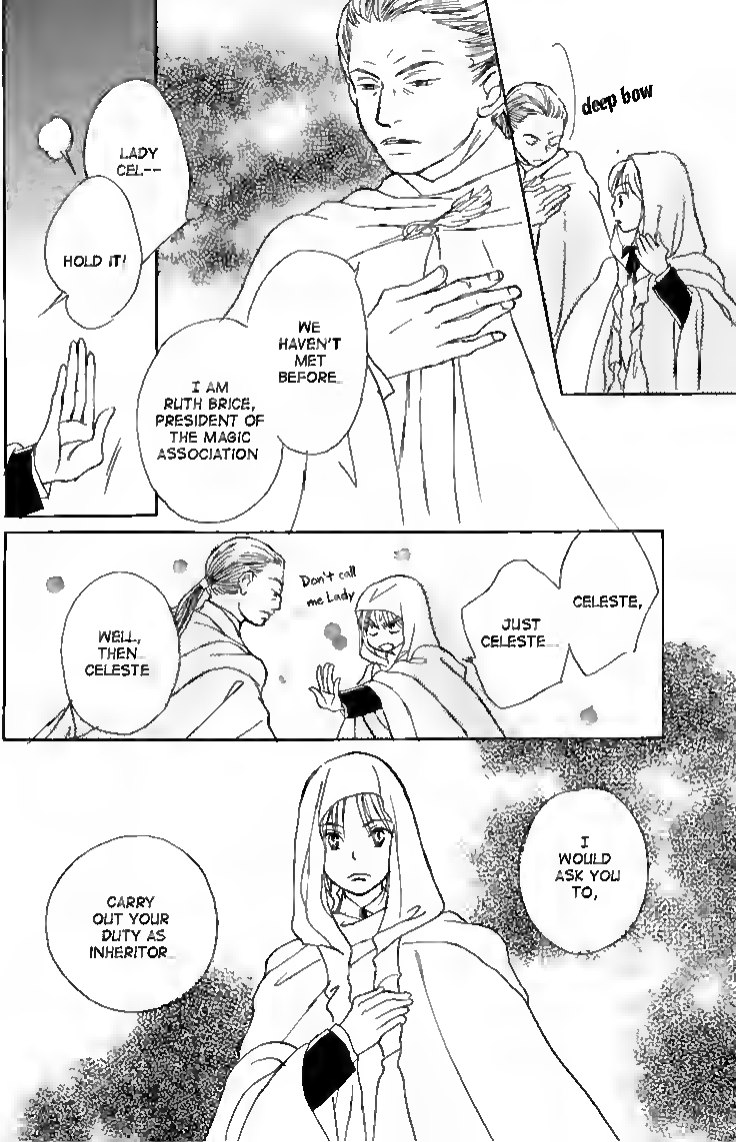

MOTH-
ER IS
WHAT'S
WRONG?
IT'S
NOTHING,
I'M JUST
A BIT DIZZY
MOTHER!
MOTHER
TOBY! HELP
MRS. EARDLEY
DON'T
DECIDE FOR
ME WHAT'S
GOING ON
THIS WHOLE
THING IS
RIDICULOUS

FIRST OFF, WHO IS THAT GIRL?
SHE LOOKS LIKE AN ELFINWOOD STUDENT...
SHE'S APPARENTLY CELIA-SOMEONE-OR-OTHER'S DAUGHTER.
I can't unbraid these!
IT'S INVALID WITHOUT THE MARK, RIGHT?
HERE, TRY THIS
CELIA?
DON'T YOU KNOW?
THEY SAY SHE'S ELEANOR'S NIECE
THIS HAIR ...
IS NOT THE MARK!

IT'S NO USE THE MARK IS PROTECTED BY THE LEGACY
HOW CAN THEY BE SO HARD?!
YOU MEAN, MY HAIR WILL BE THIS WAY FOREVER?
This isn't a legacy, it's a curse
Emily
stagger
DROP
OW
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, VINCENT WHY ME?
LADY AGNES HAD SIX FINGERS ON HER RIGHT HAND
I'M GOOD WITH PIG-TAILS
IT'S JUST BY CHANCE THAT I'M HERE AT ELLSWORTH
How in the heck are these the mark?
This has got to be a joke!
PIGTAILS!!

I'M A KNOW-NOTHING, AN IDIOT...
IT'S NOT A COINCIDENCE YOU WERE DRAWN HERE
BUT HAVEN'T YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, VINCENT?
THAT I'M PROUDLY PLAYING AT BEING A SORCERESS
I'M J... JUST A CHILD
THIS HAS TO BE A MISTAKE
THERE'S JUST NO WAY
HOW CAN I CARRY ON A GREAT SORCERESS' LEGACY?
HOW CAN I BE THE INHERITOR?
LET ME EXPLAIN...
LOOK, NONE OF THEM ARE CONVINCED OF IT.
They keep looking this way and complaining

THIS ISN'T SOMETHING ANYONE DECIDED.
THE LEGACY CHOSE YOU.
TAKE THIS.
LADY AGNES ALWAYS WORE GLOVES IN PUBLIC.

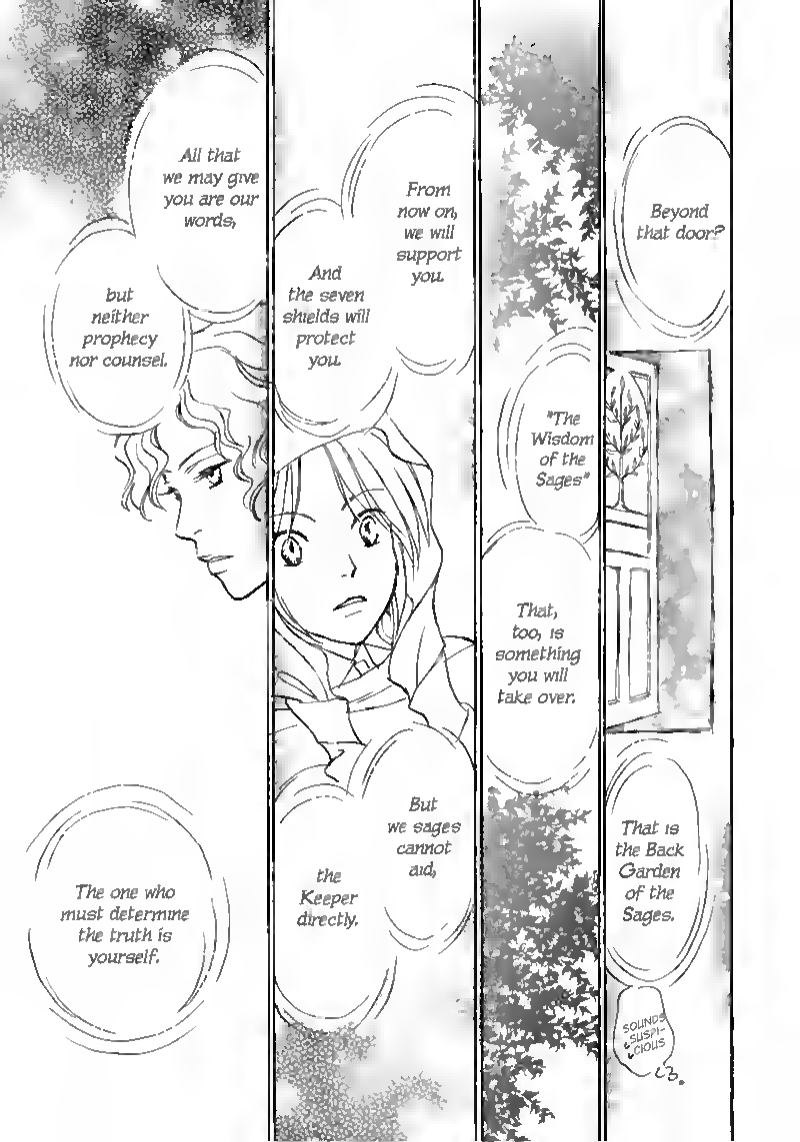

deep bow
LADY CEL--
HOLD IT!
I AM RUTH BRICE, PRESIDENT OF THE MAGIC ASSOCIATION
WE HAVEN'T MET BEFORE
Don't call me Lady
WELL, THEN CELESTE
JUST CELESTE
CELESTE,
I WOULD ASK YOU TO,
CARRY OUT YOUR DUTY AS INHERITOR

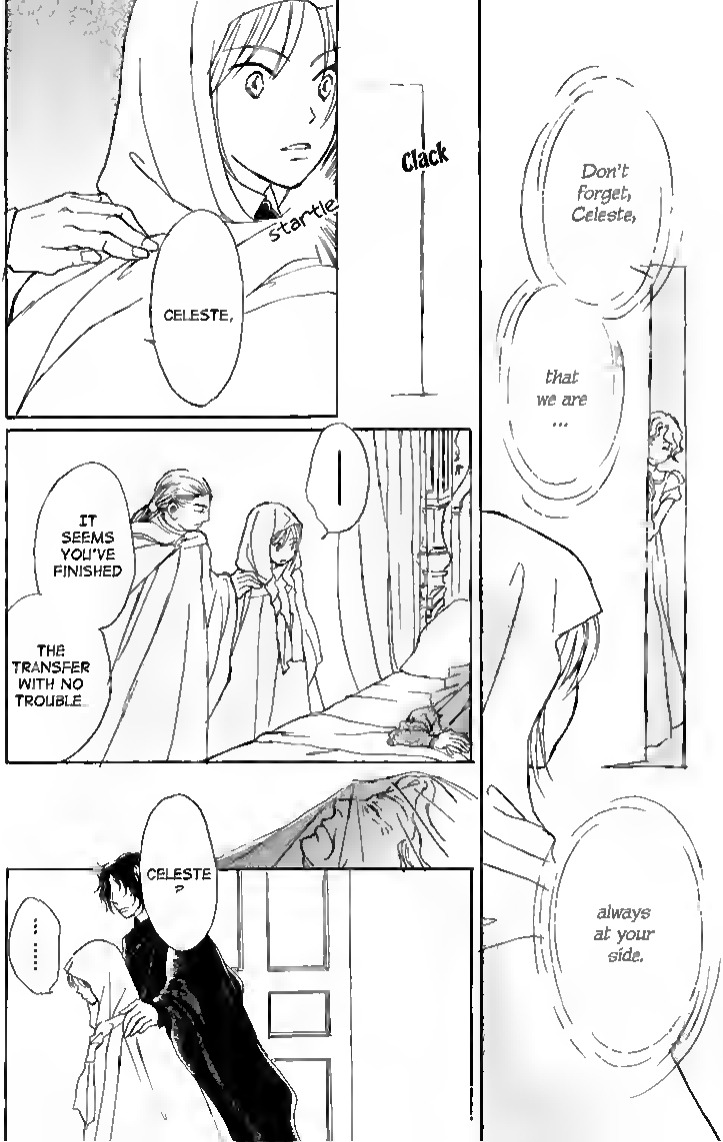
PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO,
LADY AGNES

She really had six fingers.
THAT GLOVE
MIRANDA!!

startle

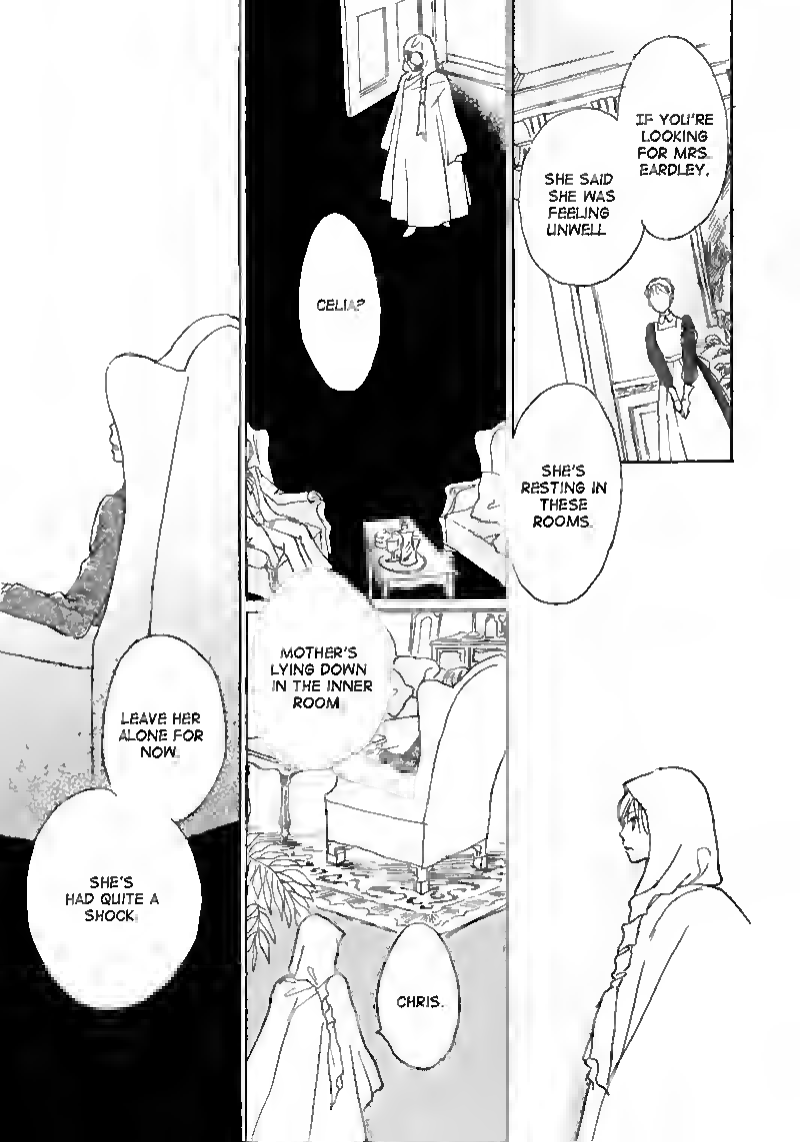
Can't they see this?
Celeste,
The child Miranda raised.
Starting today,
I pass on the duty of the Keeper to you.
"Keeper"?
THE DUTY? IT'S NOT A LEGACY?
The sorcerers of the past,
are with you always.


All that we may give you are our words,
but neither prophecy nor counsel.
The one who must determine the truth is yourself.
From now on, we will support you.
And the seven shields will protect you.
But we sages cannot aid, the Keeper directly.
"The Wisdom of the Sages"
That, too, is something you will take over.
Beyond that door?
That is the Back Garden of the Sages.
SOUNDS SUSPICIOUS

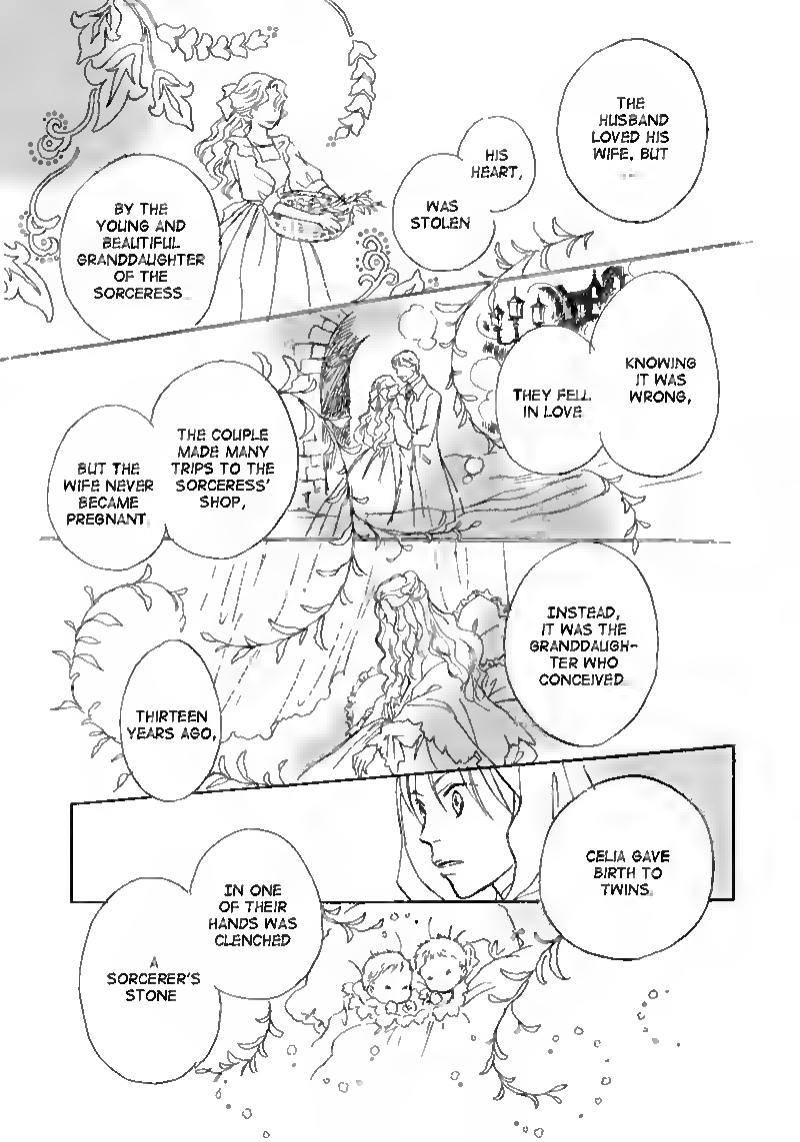

CELESTE,
Startle
Clack
IT SEEMS YOU'VE FINISHED THE TRANSFER WITH NO TROUBLE
CELESTE ?
.....
Don't forget, Celeste,
that we are ...
always at your side.

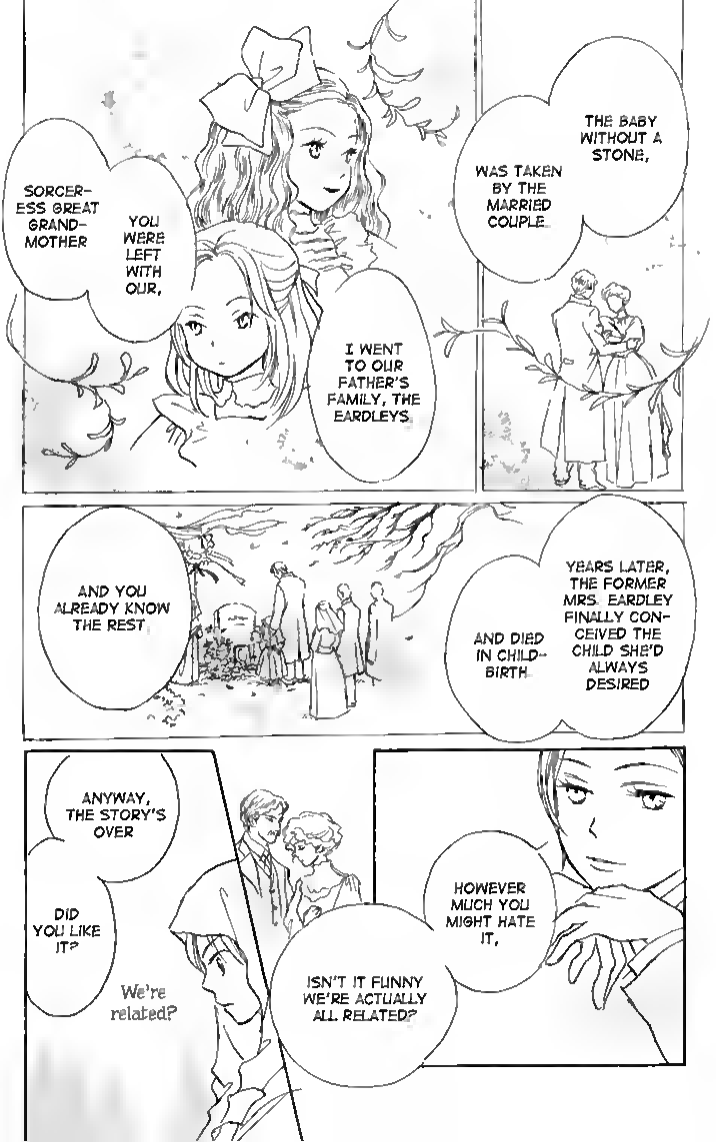
VINCENT ?
IT'S NO GOOD
How terrible can this be if all of them were hoping for it?
Legacy?
IT'S FRIGHTENING TO BE CONTROLLED BY POWER.
IT'S NO GOOD. I CAN'T DO THIS
Take over this ridiculous duty,
without my consent.
Somehow I've been forced to ...
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT THE CONNECTION BETWEEN MIRANDA AND LADY AGNES TILL A MOMENT AGO.
IT'S TOO SUDDEN
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME
VINCENT, I'M SCARED
CALM DOWN, CELESTE.

NO!
ばっ
I'D GIVE THIS LEGACY TO ANYONE WHO WANTS IT!
I'M NOT GOING TO ROLL OVER AND DO AS YOU SAY!
YOU MUST RESIGN YOURSELF TO THIS,
LADY CELESTE.
Hands up, every one who wants it.
She'll give it to whoever wants it?
Give it?
IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
THEIR CHOICE IS NOT AN ERROR
SHE JUST NEEDS SOME TIME FOR NOW.


IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MRS. EARDLEY,
SHE SAID SHE WAS FEELING UNWELL
SHE'S RESTING IN THESE ROOMS.
CELIA?
MOTHER'S LYING DOWN IN THE INNER ROOM
CHRIS.
LEAVE HER ALONE FOR NOW.
SHE'S HAD QUITE A SHOCK.

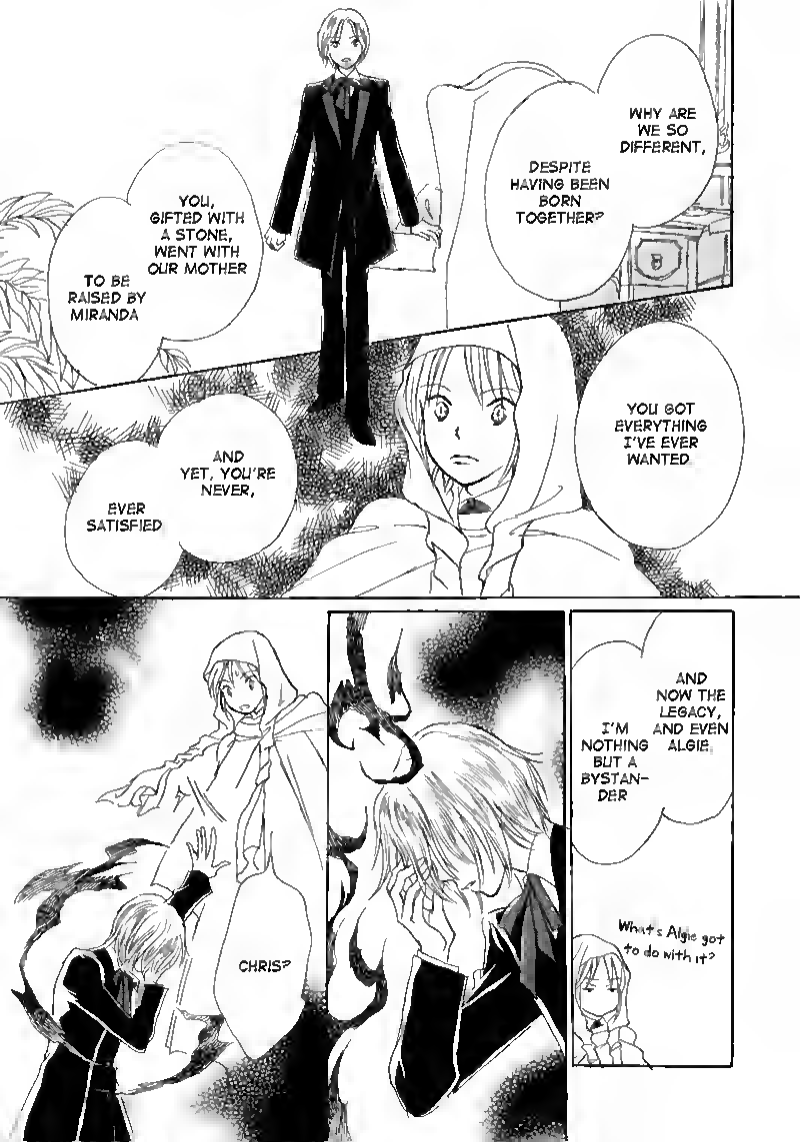
I'M THE ONE WHO'S HAD A SHOCK!
I WANT TO ASK CELIA A HUNDRED THINGS!
THAT'S RIGHT,
YOU INHERITED THE LEGACY, AFTER ALL
CONGRATULATIONS
TO CELEBRATE,
SHALL I TELL YOU A STORY?
A COUPLE UNABLE TO CONCEIVE
VISITED THE ONLY SORCERESS IN TOWN
THE HUSBAND WOULD DO WHATEVER IT TOOK TO GIVE HIS WIFE THE CHILD SHE DESIRED


THE HUSBAND LOVED HIS WIFE, BUT
HIS HEART, WAS STOLEN
BY THE YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL GRANDDAUGHTER OF THE SORCERESS
KNOWING IT WAS WRONG,
THEY FELL IN LOVE
THE COUPLE MADE MANY TRIPS TO THE SORCERESS' SHOP,
BUT THE WIFE NEVER BECAME PREGNANT
INSTEAD, IT WAS THE GRANDDAUGHTER WHO CONCEIVED
THIRTEEN YEARS AGO,
CELIA GAVE BIRTH TO TWINS.
IN ONE OF THEIR HANDS WAS CLENCHED
A SORCERER'S STONE


SORCERESS GREAT GRANDMOTHER
YOU WERE LEFT WITH OUR,
I WENT TO OUR FATHER'S FAMILY, THE EARDLEYS.
THE BABY WITHOUT A STONE,
WAS TAKEN BY THE MARRIED COUPLE.
AND YOU ALREADY KNOW THE REST.
AND DIED IN CHILDBIRTH.
YEARS LATER, THE FORMER MRS. EARDLEY FINALLY CONCEIVED THE CHILD SHE'D ALWAYS DESIRED
ANYWAY, THE STORY'S OVER
DID YOU LIKE IT?
We're related?
ISN'T IT FUNNY WE'RE ACTUALLY ALL RELATED?
HOWEVER MUCH YOU MIGHT HATE IT,

OH RIGHT,
THERE'S ONE MORE THING.
OUT OF THE TWIN SISTERS, AGNES AND MIRANDA,
MIRANDA WAS THE "HOLDER" OF THE STONE
THE ONE TO INHERIT THE LEGACY WAS AGNES,
THE "CARE-TAKER"
THEN,
LADY AGNES WAS

CHRIS,
YOUR HAIR...
Rina
YES, THE SAME AS ME
A BORROWER
I WANTED TO BE A SORCERESS
BEFORE I KNEW ABOUT YOU OR MYSELF,
I LONGED FOR IT


WHY ARE WE SO DIFFERENT,
DESPITE HAVING BEEN BORN TOGETHER?
YOU, GIFTED WITH A STONE, WENT WITH OUR MOTHER TO BE RAISED BY MIRANDA
YOU GOT EVERYTHING I'VE EVER WANTED
AND YET, YOU'RE NEVER, EVER SATISFIED
AND NOW THE LEGACY, AND EVEN ALGIE.
I'M NOTHING BUT A BYSTANDER
What's Algie got to do with it?
CHRIS?

"SHADES"?
SPIRITS OF SORCERERS WHO FALL INTO DARKNESS?
THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO STRIKE OUT AT YOU,
BEFORE THE SHADES COULD DRAG ME DOWN
THEY TRY TO GET IN AT VULNERABLE MOMENTS LIKE THESE
I WON'T BECOME A "WANDERING ONE "
STOP IT!
SATISFIED?

THAT'S RIGHT,
I HID IT BECAUSE I HATED TO ADMIT IT, BUT,
I ALWAYS,
ALWAYS,
ALWAYS.
ENVIED YOU.

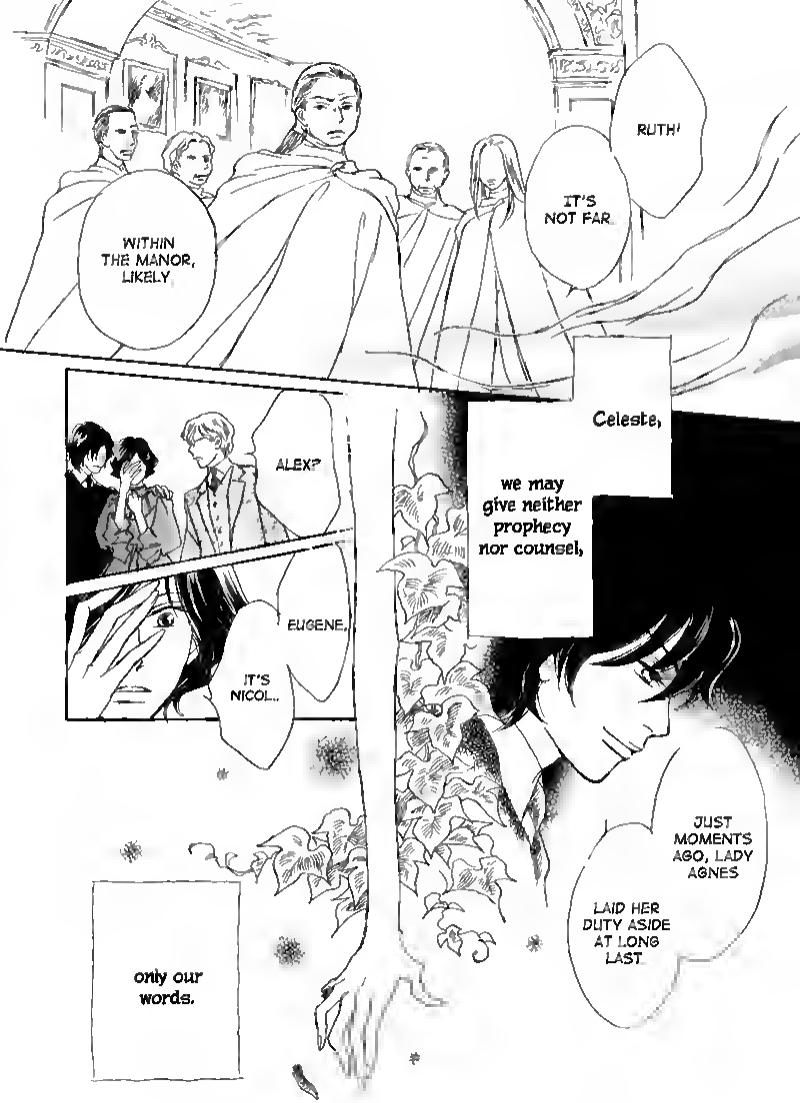
I WANTED
TO BE YOU.
CELESTE

EVERYONE, YOU MUST BE TIRED
LET'S LEAVE THE REST OF THIS TO THE MAGIC ASSOCIATION AND CALL IT A DAY.
BUT, EUGENE
There are refreshments in the hall!
WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND THIS AT ALL
WHY WOULD A GIRL WHO APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE
GUESS WHO

UH?
RUTH.
DID YOU FEEL THAT?
I DID TOO
WHAT WAS THAT?

LOOK HERE
NOW I CAN
ダン！
PUSH SOMEONE LIKE YOU AROUND
WHERE IS SHE?

NICOL?
IS THAT REALLY YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
OW!
SMARTEN UP, ALGIE
DIDN'T I JUST SAY, I CAN PUSH THE LIKES OF YOU AROUND?
Celeste.


RUTH!
IT'S NOT FAR.
WITHIN THE MANOR, LIKELY.
Celeste,
we may give neither prophecy nor counsel,
ALEX?
EUGENE,
IT'S NICOL...
JUST MOMENTS AGO, LADY AGNES
LAID HER DUTY ASIDE AT LONG LAST.
only our words.

IT PLEASES ME THAT HER SUCCESSOR IS BOTH SUCH A YOUNG GIRL,
AND CELIA'S DAUGHTER.
CELESTE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
Search for the words inside your heart,
and take hold of that which does not waver.
SHE HAD ME SEALED AWAY FOR QUITE A LONG TIME.
AT LAST, I CAN BREATHE AGAIN.
Focus on the truth and listen with care.
You can't get caught up by lies.

ONE OF THE DARK SEEDS HAS AWOKEN.
Don't forget, we are always,
here with you.
SHE'S MY NEW KEEPER.
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

第6話 End

# 7
# The Dark Seed

YOU WANT CELESTE TO BE .
YOUR KEEPER ..?
The dark seed grows from within the soul.
The great keeper only exists in order to stop it.
That is what awaits you...
Celeste...

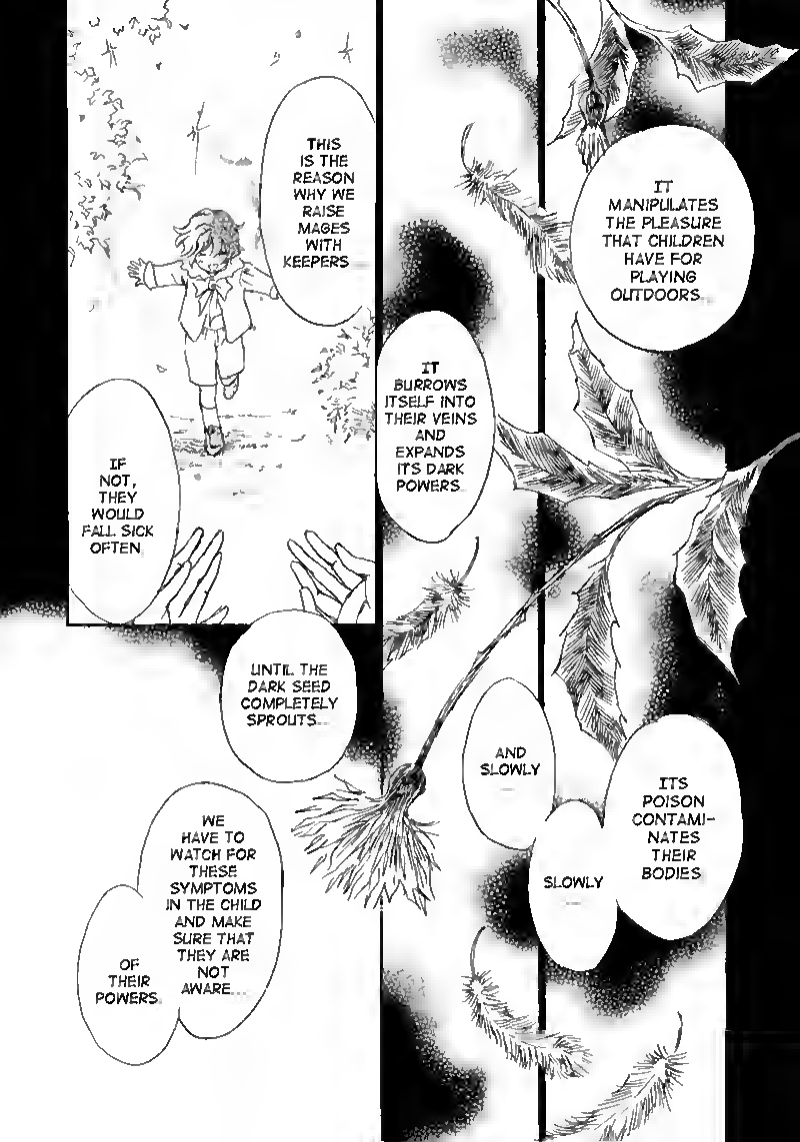
OF COURSE, BIG-- BROTHER...
YOU WILL REMAIN MY ALLY, RIGHT?
AFTER ALL, YOU POSSESS...
SOME OF MY POWER.
YOU'RE CRUCIAL TO ME...
MOTHER...
カチャ

YOU SHOULD REST MORE...
WHAT IS THIS...!?
.....
CHRIS...?
MY RELATION TO THE ELLSWORTHS
GOES BACK TO WHEN I WAS 14...
IT WAS DURING ONE OF MY COUSIN'S MARRIAGE...
Celia's parents
FOR ME, WHO WAS RAISED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WHERE GRANDMOTHER HAD HER BOUTIQUE,
I WAS INSTANTLY SEDUCED BY THE LUXURY OF THEIR HOME...
ALSO BY MY MYSTERIOUS COUSINS...
UNTIL I FOUND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT "HIM"...

"YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FOR-EVER"...
IS WHAT EUGENE SAID TO ME.
ALGIE?
WE WERE LOOKING FOR YOU, WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
HUH?
BUT...
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...
...NICOLAS!?

FATHER!
NICOLAS
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
I'M SCARED... SO SCARED!
CALM DOWN, NICOLAS
COME, HAVE SOMETHING TO DRINK
ELIGENE!
PRESIDENT
THAT IS...?
MY YOUNGEST CHILD, NICOLAS.

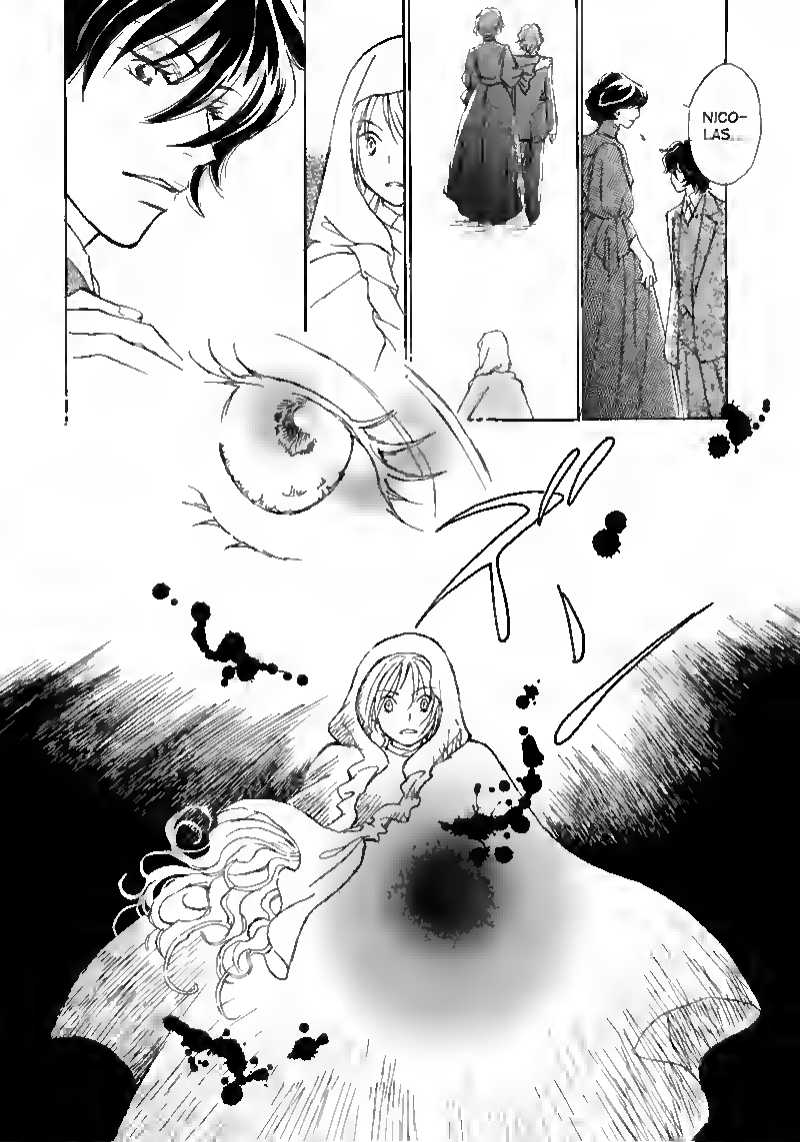
ONE WOULD SAY HE'S...
YOU'RE MISTAKEN!
THAT CHILD HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MAGIC!
IT'S JUST...
HE'S JUST A NORMAL CHILD!
HE'S NORMAL...
WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN NOW...
EUGENE...
HOW THE DARK SEED WORKS...
YOU KNOW WELL ENOUGH


THIS IS THE REASON WHY WE RAISE MAGES WITH KEEPERS...
IF NOT, THEY WOULD FALL SICK OFTEN...
IT MANIPULATES THE PLEASURE THAT CHILDREN HAVE FOR PLAYING OUTDOORS...
IT BURROWS ITSELF INTO THEIR VEINS AND EXPANDS ITS DARK POWERS...
UNTIL THE DARK SEED COMPLETELY SPROUTS...
AND SLOWLY...
ITS POISON CONTAMI-NATES THEIR BODIES...
SLOWLY...
WE HAVE TO WATCH FOR THESE SYMPTOMS IN THE CHILD AND MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE NOT AWARE... OF THEIR POWERS...

BUT, I...
HAD SHE WAITED FOR SUCH AN IDEAL TIME AS THIS...
WITHOUT A DOUBT
TO AWAKEN?
AM UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT IN THE SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME...
WHEN THE GREAT SORCERESS GAVE UP HER POWERS, THAT HER GOAL WAS ACCOMPLISHED.
HERBERT!

HER-
BERT...
CELIA?
CELIA!
EU-
EUG-
ENE!
YOU'RE MISTAKEN CELIA, THAT'S MY SON, NICOLAS
NO
YOU ARE MISTAK-EN!
BUT THAT FACE
HER-
BERT?
What's that?
THAT'S HERBERT!

CELIA'S GIRL?
ARE YOU...
I CAN FEEL IT, IT'S HIM!
DON'T YOU SEE IT?
IT IS YOU!


NICO-
LAS...

ドクン
ドク
ス…
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW…
ドク
ドクン
OF A GIRL SO YOUNG BEING CHOSEN…
HOW COULD WE POSSIBLY APPROVE
DO NOT FORGET THIS.
YOU WILL HAVE TO
WE DO NOT HAVE ANOTHER
ドク
MY HEART
IT FEELS LIKE SOMEONE IS CRUSHING IT
ドクン
HOWEVER…

HOW DID THEY...
THERE ARE ONLY MAGES HERE...
CEL-ESTE?
CEL-ESTE...?
WHAT DOES...
NOT NOTICE ANYTHING?
THIS MEAN?
#"ュ
THAT GUY!
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT HE GREW UP SO QUICKLY, AND WHY IS EVERYONE SO CALM ABOUT IT?
HE'S YOUR LITTLE BROTHER!
THE DARK SEED HAS AWAKENED

THE DARK SEED
NICO-LAS...
HUH?
YES, PROB-ABLY
IT HAS AWAKENED, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
NORMALLY, ITS POWER IS SUPPOSED TO REMAIN DORMANT...
THE DARK SEED GROWS INSIDE THE SOUL.
BUT, ALL IT TAKES IS ONE UNCON-SCIOUS MOMENT FOR IT TO SPROUT...
AND SPREAD ITS POISON.

AND IT AWOKE...
IN HIM?
BACK THEN, WAS THAT HIM ALREADY MASTERING THE DARK POWERS?
I WOULD SAY SO
FINE, I GET IT, WHY ARE YOU ALL LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT FOR?
I'LL GO CAPTURE HIM OR CONVINCE HIM TO OBEY
AND HOW WILL YOU GO ABOUT DOING THAT?
BY PUTTING HIM IN A CAGE?
EVEN IF YOU WERE TO LOCK HIM AWAY...
THE DARK SEED WOULD NOT DISAPPEAR...
THIS IS NOT SOMETHING ONE CAN ACHIEVE THROUGH OBEDIENCE...

THE MISSION GIVEN TO YOU AS...
GREAT KEEPER
IS TO SEAL AWAY HIS POWERS.
PRESI-DENT...
WHY...
DID CELIA...
HER-BERT...
WHO IS THAT REALLY?
IT WAS AROUND TWENTY YEARS EARLIER...
LADY AGNES WAS ABLE TO TEM-PORARILY STALL THE GROWTH OF THE DARK SEED
IT HAPPENED TO BE...
THE LITTLE BROTHER OF...
EUGENE ELLS-WORTH.

I MUST ADMIT THAT...
THAT POSSIBILITY INTRIGUES ME EQUALLY...
WE WERE THOUGHT TO HAVE STOPPED THE DARK SEED, BUT...
IT'S AWAKENED ONCE AGAIN...
EVEN IF IT'S FORM HAS CHANGED...
IT TOOK PLACE HERE...
I WAS ONE OF THE "SEVEN SHIELDS"...
POS-SESSES THE DARK SEED?
YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT IN THIS HOUSE...ONE OF MIRANDA'S DESCEN-DANTS...
HE'S HERBERT!
IS IT SOME-THING INHERENT?
THE DARK SEED...
In other words... Herbert is Nicolas and...
I DO NOT THINK SO...
BUT...

I FEAR YOUR TASK IS EVEN MORE DELICATE
ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME THAT ALL OF THE PROBLEMS BEING CAUSED BY THE DARK SEED HAVE TO BE SOLVED BY THE KEEPER?
WAIT A MINUTE...
TCH! HE LEFT TO JOIN HIS GROUP!
ISN'T THE ORGANISATION SUPPOSED TO BRING TOGETHER THE GREATEST ELITE MAGES?
NOT SPECIFICALLY, NO...
We don't use the word "elite"...
...but officially-

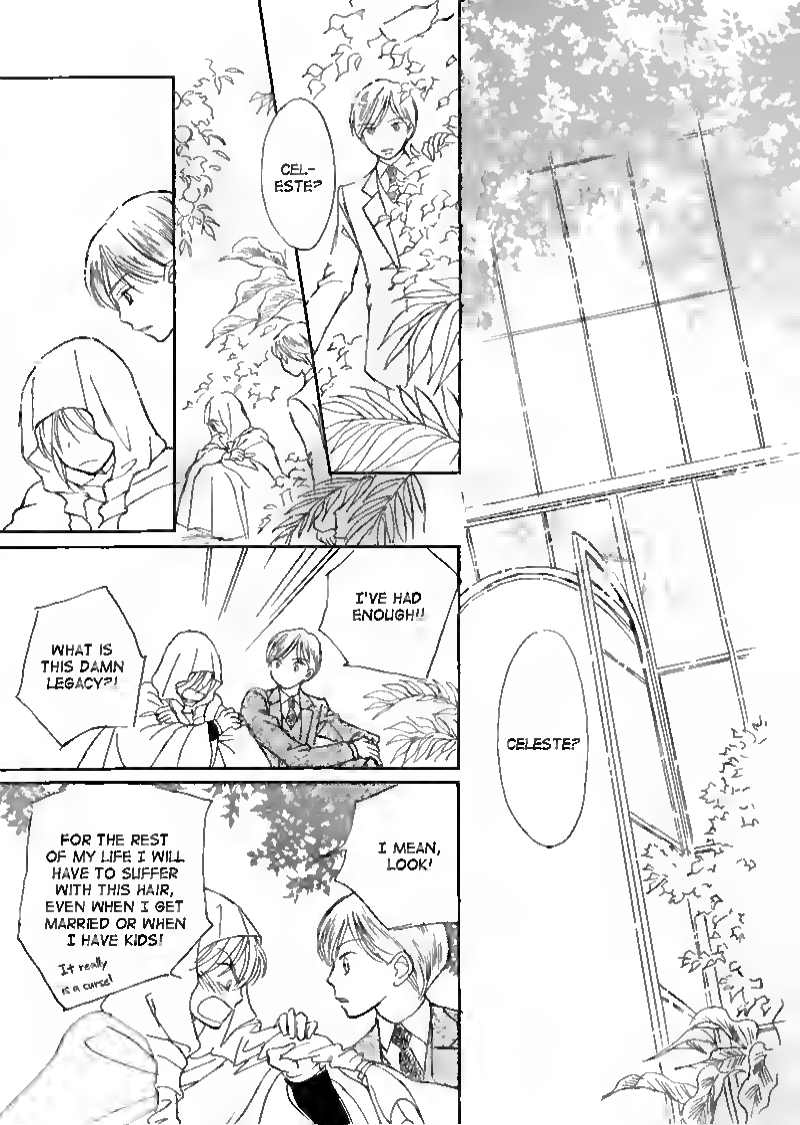
BUT WOULDN'T YOU CONSIDER THEM SAINTS?
DO YOU MEAN AS IN AUTHENTS?
YOU DON'T NEED TO PROTECT THE GUARDIANS, THEY ARE ACCOMPLISHED MAGES, RIGHT?
And now what I will you.
IN THAT CASE, WILL I ALSO
BECAUSE SAINTS ARE
ATTRACTED BY THE GRAVITATIONAL FORCE OF THE STONE AND DARKNESS, THEY ARE FREE
WE ARE WHITE MAGES WHO MANIPULATE A PURE ENERGY
DARK MAGES CANNOT STAND SUCH AN EXISTENCE
IT'S FOR THAT VERY REASON SAINTS DO NOT CARRY BLADES
WE ARE UNABLE TO HARM OTHERS

OUCH!
Not easy being a saint!
YES, WE HAVE NO OFFENSIVE POWER WHATSOEVER!
And what would happen if your partner were evil?
WHICH MEANS...?
THE KEEPERS OF THE PAST AND THE SAINTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THUS, BUT...
THE SHADOW HAS NEVER BEEN FAR FROM THEM.
AND THEY DO BEST NOT TO LINGER IN THE DARKNESS.
SUCH IS THE POSITION OF...
ALL KEEPERS WHO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.
THAT'S NICE AND ALL, BUT IT DIDN'T REALLY ANSWER MY QUESTION

HUMANS ARE HESITANT AND TIMID CREA-TURES...
MAGES, JUST AS WITH ORDINARY PEOPLE...
ALL POSSESS SHADOWS DEEP WITHIN THEIR HEARTS
AND IS IT ENOUGH TO JUST STOP IT FOR A CERTAIN TIME PERIOD?
THE QUESTION IS...
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO DESTROY THE DARK SEED?
THE KEEPER IS THE KEY...
TO LOCKING AWAY THE POWERS OF THE DARK SEED...
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS THAT I HAVE TO DO?
YOU ARE THE INHERITOR, AND THAT IS WHY YOU RECEIVED THE LEGACY...
You're still not answering my question...

CEL-
ESTE
IT'S ONLY THE BOTH OF YOU
I FEEL SO USELESS
I HAVE FAILED
I THOUGHT I HAD SUCCEEDED AT SHIELDING YOU FROM YOUR DESTINY, BUT

EVEN WHEN, YOU DIDN'T EVEN SEE ME AS...
YOUR MOTHER...
I HAD THOUGHT OF MANY WAYS TO PRESERVE YOUR FREEDOM, BUT...
Why did she cut her hair?
But even like this she's still pretty cute!
IT'S BEST TO LET HER BE
CELE...
CELESTE!

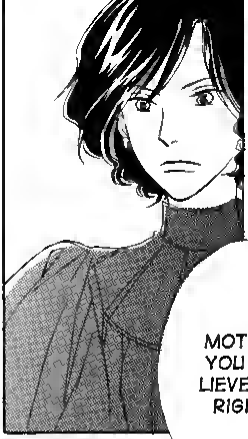

CEL-
ESTE?
I'VE HAD
ENOUGH!!
WHAT IS
THIS DAMN
LEGACY?!
CELESTE?
FOR THE REST
OF MY LIFE I WILL
HAVE TO SUFFER
WITH THIS HAIR,
EVEN WHEN I GET
MARRIED OR WHEN
I HAVE KIDS!
It really
is a curse!
I MEAN,
LOOK!

That's because you aren't the one with the disturbing bracelet
I THINK IT SUITS YOU WELL...
THAT GUY...
IS HE REALLY YOUR LITTLE BROTHER?
HE'S PROBABLY WITH OUR MOTHER RIGHT NOW...
WITH ALEX? AREN'T YOU WORRIED?
AND SHE...
YOU KNOW SHE IS OUR MOTHER...
CELESTE?
NO ONE HAS EVER UNDERSTOOD ME...
FROM THE START...
CELIA AND CHRIS KNEW ALL ABOUT ME. IT ANNOYS ME!
WHEN MIRANDA DIED, I WAS COMPLETELY LOST...
AND REALLY ANGRY

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?
ALWAYS, THIS ANGER HAS JUST BEEN BUILDING INSIDE MY HEART
I CAN'T SEEM TO FEEL ANY-- THING ELSE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF I MADE YOU FEEL SOMETHING ELSE?
I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY FEELINGS FOR YOU, YOU KNOW...
3↓
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
THAT WAS EASY RIGHT?
Head spinning

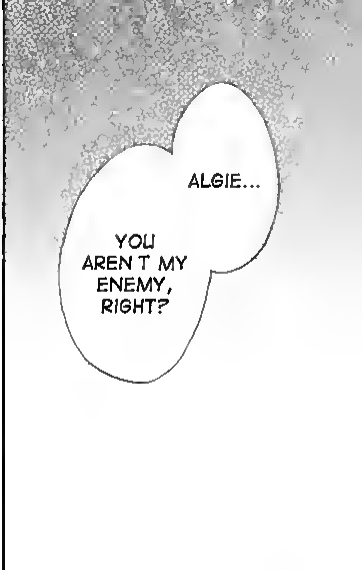
Tch
DAMN...
I'VE BEEN WAITING...
Damn?
FOR SOMEONE
TO COMFORT ME LIKE THIS...
YOU WILL BE AN EXCEL-LENT KEEPER
IT WILL BE OK
HEY, CELESTE...
FOR A LONG TIME...
YES...
MIRANDA'S BLOOD
RUNS IN HIM AS WELL...
HUH?
YOU DO REALISE THAT THIS MAKES US KISSING COUSINS!
EHH...
That's true since our parents are cousins, then...
IT'S...
IT'S COMPLI-CATED!

THE WIND THAT DAY...
THE WIND WAS TREMBLING AROUND US.
THE WIND?
THAT'S WHY...
IN HIM TOO...
YES.
HERE, IN MY HEART...
IT'S AS IF A FOREST IS SHUDDER-ING...
EVER SINCE THE BEGIN-NING
I FELT AS IF IT'S BEEN TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING...



MOTHER, YOU BE-LIEVE ME, RIGHT?

I'M SURE BIG BROTHER LIKES THAT GIRL MORE THAN ME



ALGIE... YOU AREN'T MY ENEMY, RIGHT?

NICO-LAS...
YOU KNOW THAT I TOO WAS THE GUARDIAN OF MY LITTLE BROTHER, VINCENT.
AND THAT WHEN WE WERE YOUNG WE STUDIED TOGETHER AT ELFIN-WOOD
I WAS NEVER VERY GIFTED WITH MAGIC...
BUT YOU KNOW, I UNDER-STAND...
AS CUTE AS MY LITTLE NICOLAS...
YOU ARE GOOD, AS BEAUTIFUL AS MY LITTLE BOY...
I KNOW THAT RIGHT NOW, IT'S NOT HIM.
BUT MY SON IS...
SOME-WHERE INSIDE YOU...

EU-GENE?
STAY STILL.
SO...
YOU'D BETTER GIVE ME BACK MY SON!!
I HAVE NOT BEEN HERE SINCE HERBERT LEFT US.
REMEM-BERING ALL OF THAT EXHAUSTED ME
IT BOTHERS ME THAT YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF ME WHEN YOU ARE SO BUSY
I'M SORRY, I HAVE YET TO COME AND SAY HELLO.

I WAS DRAWN TO HERBERT'S BEAUTY...
BY HIS SLENDER ARMS AND HIS PURE WHITE SKIN, EVEN...
BY HIS EYES... THE COLOR OF A LAKE'S SURFACE IN THE HEART OF WINTER
YOU KNOW, IN THE BEGIN-NING...
MY MOTHER HAS NOT STEPPED FOOT IN HERE FOR A LONG TIME.
YOU ARE NOT ALONE...
AND ONE DAY
HIS STARE BECAME SO COLD...
I DID NOT NO-TICE THE SHADOW THAT TAR-NISHED HIS SKIN
BECAUSE I DID NOT REALISE THE DIF-FERENCES THAT OPPOSED US
BUT I REGRET THE FEAR THAT GUIDED ME...
MY HEART... COULDN'T RESIST HIM

WHY WILL YOU NOT ADMIT THE TRUTH? HE IS NO LONGER YOUR SON!
YOU ARE WRONG, NICHOLAS
CELIA...
HER-BERT...
AT THAT MOMENT, WHAT DID HE DO?
ENOUGH!
WHETHER HE'S NICHOLAS OR HERBERT...
I DO NOT WANT HISTORY TO REPEAT ITSELF.
HE IS TRYING TO TAKE MY DAUGHTER, I WILL NOT LET THAT HAPPEN
I HAD ALWAYS BEEN SCARED OF MY FEELINGS, BUT THIS TIME...
WHERE COULD IT HAVE BEEN AMONG THE RULES AND JUSTICE THAT GOVERN THIS WORLD?
HIS CON-SCIENCE WAS OUT OF MY REACH...

EU-GENE...
TWENTY YEARS AGO, HE TERRIFIED ME SO, THAT ALL I COULD DO WAS RUN.
BUT I HAVE CHANGED.
YOU, WANT TO PROTECT YOUR SON
AND I, MY DAUGHTER.
ME TOO, MOTHER...
I AM HER GUARDIAN.
WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT A "CARE-TAKER"?
NO, YOU CAN'T.
CHRIS...?
I ALSO WANT TO PROTECT CELESTE, AFTER ALL, I AM HER "CARETAKER"
MOTHER...
MASTER!
CHRIS...

PLACES, EVERYONE, PLEASE!
SHE'S COME TO PAY HER RESPECTS TO LADY AGNES
AND ALSO TO MEET THE NEW INHERITOR
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
IS HERE!

第7話 End

Konna Kita

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CR1O-C4
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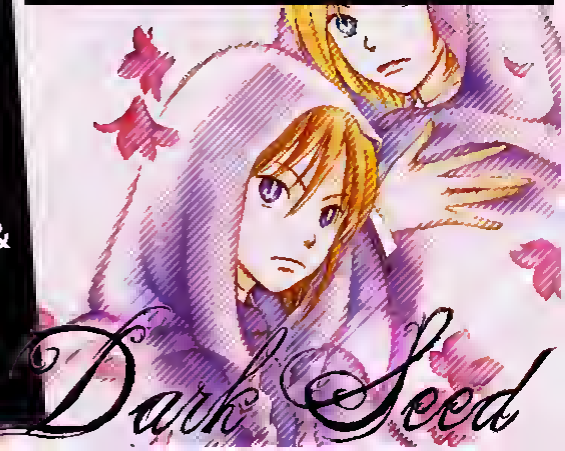

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How you say?
Sure ...
But ... how?

# 8

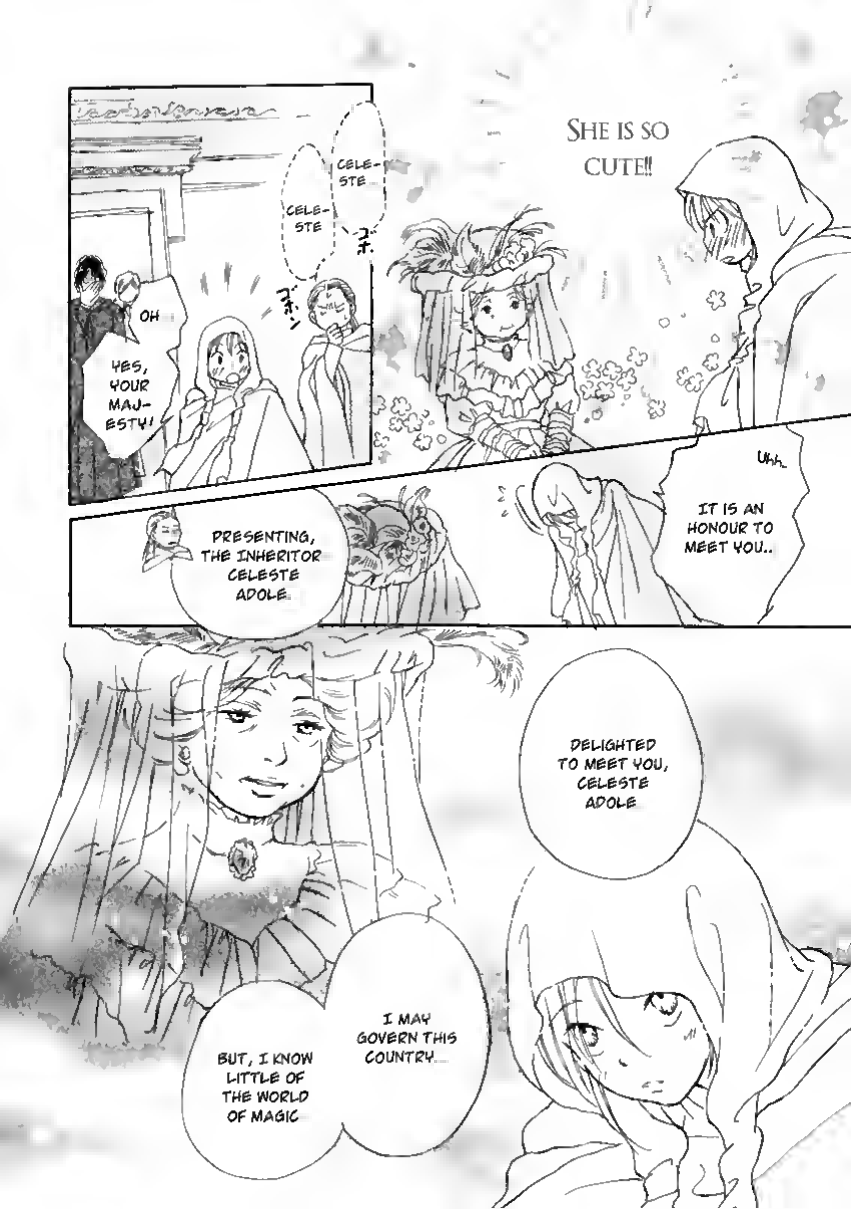
## Seven and a Half

OH, IT'S JUST YOU, ALGIE..
THIS WILL SAVE ME SOME TIME.
CELESTE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU BOTH HAVE A LOT OF LEAVES ON YOUR HEADS!
THAT'S BECAUSE WE'RE IN A GREEN-HOUSE...
NO MATTER, FOLLOW ME
THE QUEEN IS WAITING!
THE Q...P!

THE QUEEN...?!
YOU MUST BE...
TIRED...
I AM PAINED...
TO NO LONGER BE ABLE TO CONFIDE IN YOU, AGNES

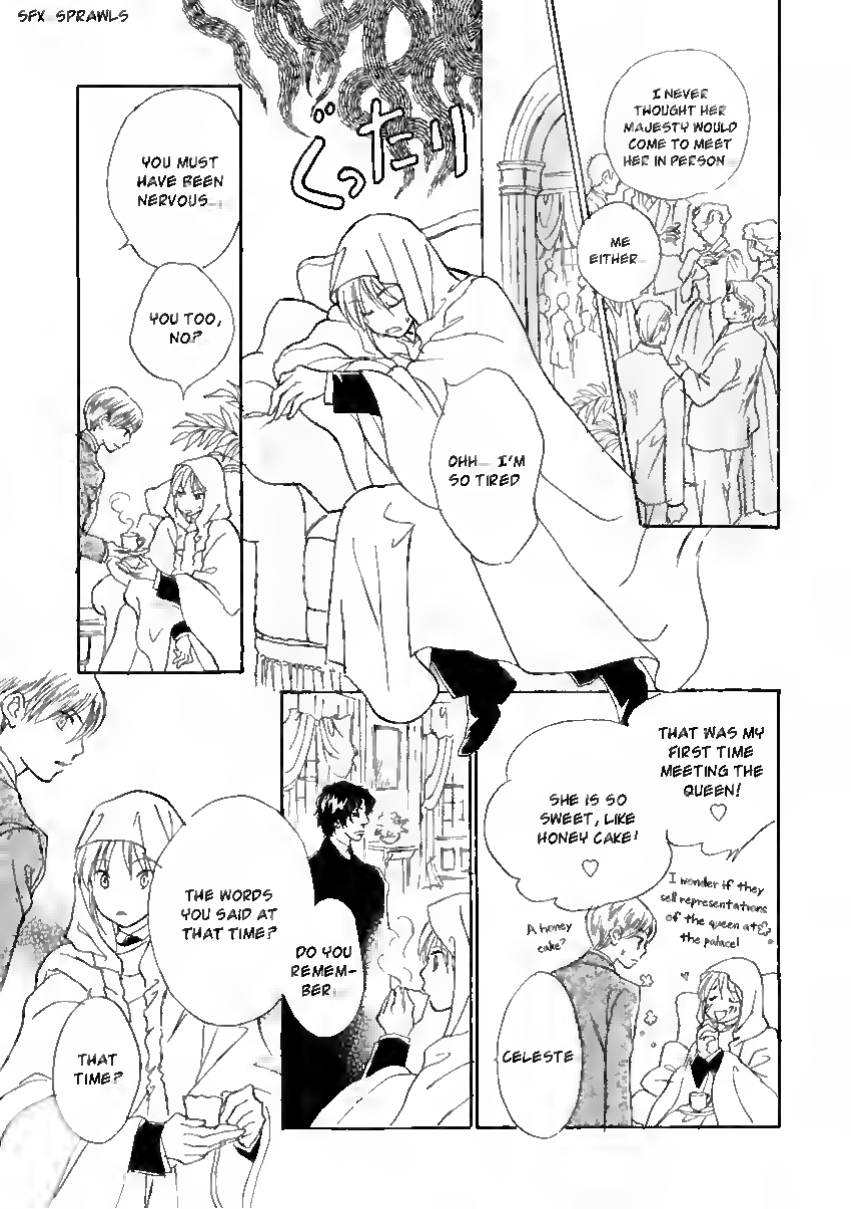
PRESI-DENT
WHAT IS SHE LIKE...?
THE NEW INHERITOR?
AH, WELL OH! HERE SHE COMES NOW!
CELESTE
Finally here!
SHE IS STILL
QUITE YOUNG
It really is the queen!
Wow!

COME CLOSER
THIS WOMAN
GOVERNS THIS COUNTRY
SHE IS OUR QUEEN
Wow..
We've the same height!
PFFT
AHA HAH AHA HAH A!!
I HEARD YOU WERE STILL A STUDENT AT ELFINWOOD

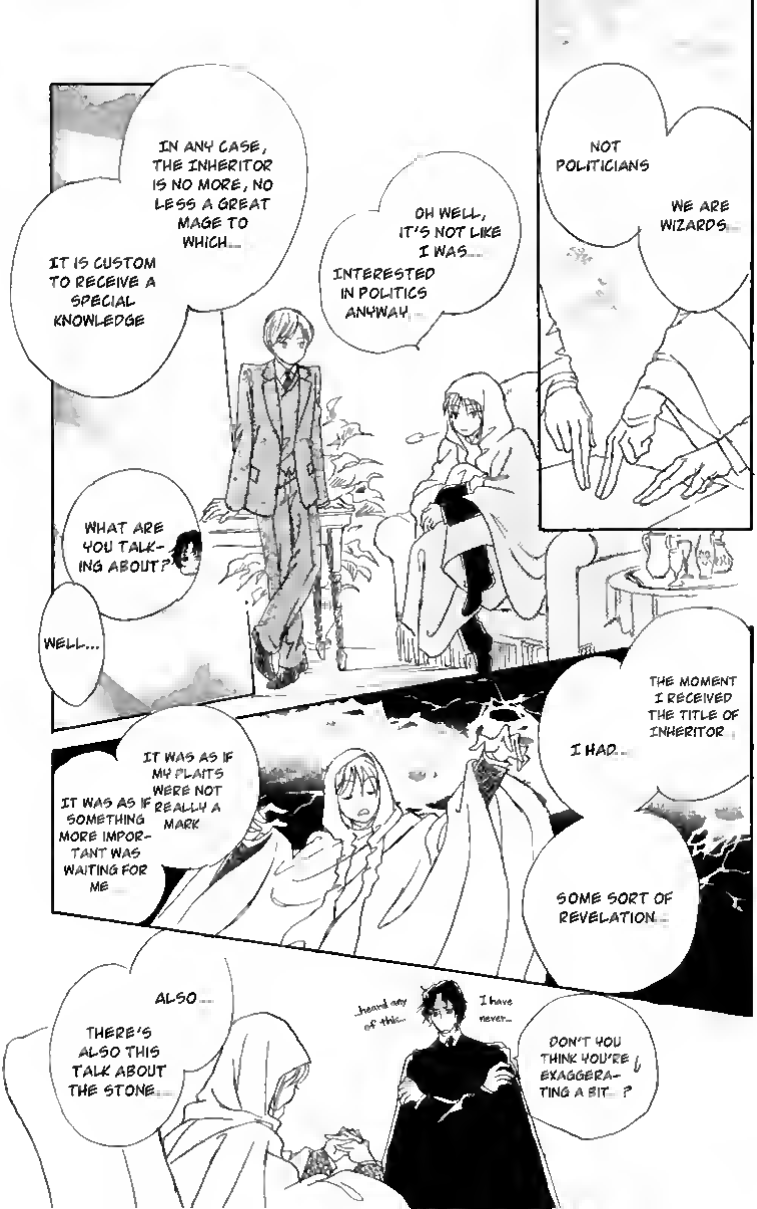

CELE-STE
CELE-STE
ゴホ
ゴホン
OH
YES, YOUR MAJ-ESTY!
SHE IS SO CUTE!!
PRESENTING, THE INHERITOR CELESTE ADOLE
Uhh
IT IS AN HONOUR TO MEET YOU..
DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU, CELESTE ADOLE
I MAY GOVERN THIS COUNTRY...
BUT, I KNOW LITTLE OF THE WORLD OF MAGIC

MAGES AND NORMAL PEOPLE...
BOTH KNOW OF A NARROWLY SECURE DESTINY...
BUT, NO MATTER OUR DIFFERENCES...
WE LIVE ON THE SAME EARTH.
IF ONE OF THE TWO WEAKENS...
THE OTHER WILL SUPPORT THE OTHER.
WHAT MY EYES CANNOT SEE, YOURS CAN...
CELESTE...

THE ROLE OF THE GREAT GUARDIAN IS TO MAINTAIN BALANCE
YE...
YES...
YOUR MAJ-ESTY!

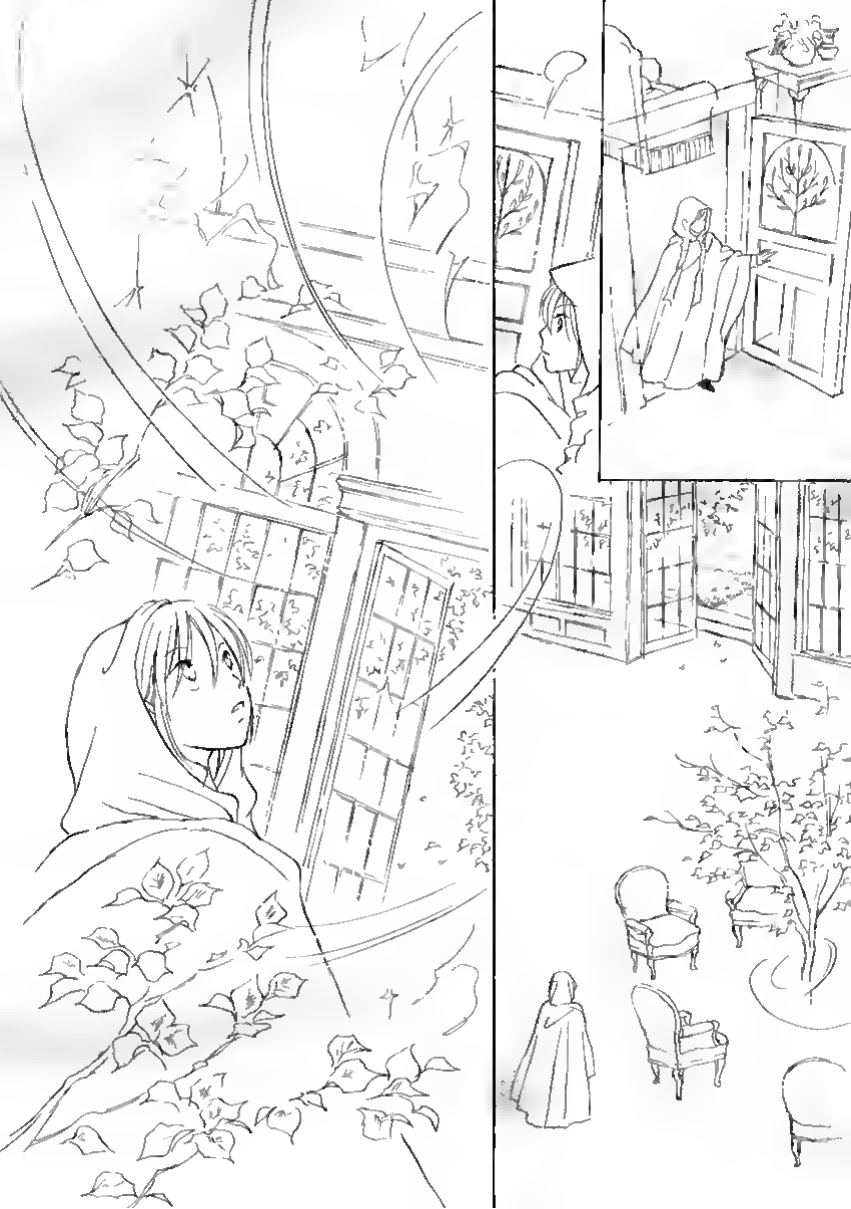

SFX SPRAWLS
ぐったり
I NEVER THOUGHT HER MAJESTY WOULD COME TO MEET HER IN PERSON
ME EITHER
OHH... I'M SO TIRED
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN NERVOUS...
YOU TOO, NO?
THAT WAS MY FIRST TIME MEETING THE QUEEN!
SHE IS SO SWEET, LIKE HONEY CAKE!
I wonder if they sell representations of the queen at the palace!
A honey cake?
CELESTE
DO YOU REMEMBER
THE WORDS YOU SAID AT THAT TIME?
THAT TIME?

THE INHERITANCE IS INSIDE OF YOU
WHAT IS THIS INHERITANCE ANYWAY?
THEY SAY IT WILL GRANT A "GREAT POWER," BUT WHAT WILL THAT SERVE?
AH YES THEN, WHY...
WHY
WE MAGES ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES TO... GOVERN THIS COUNTRY
MAGES CAN'T ASSIST THE COUNSEL?
NOW THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE INHERITANCE...
YOU WOULD LIKE THAT KIND OF AUTHORITY?
.....
WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE IMPLICIT AGREEMENTS

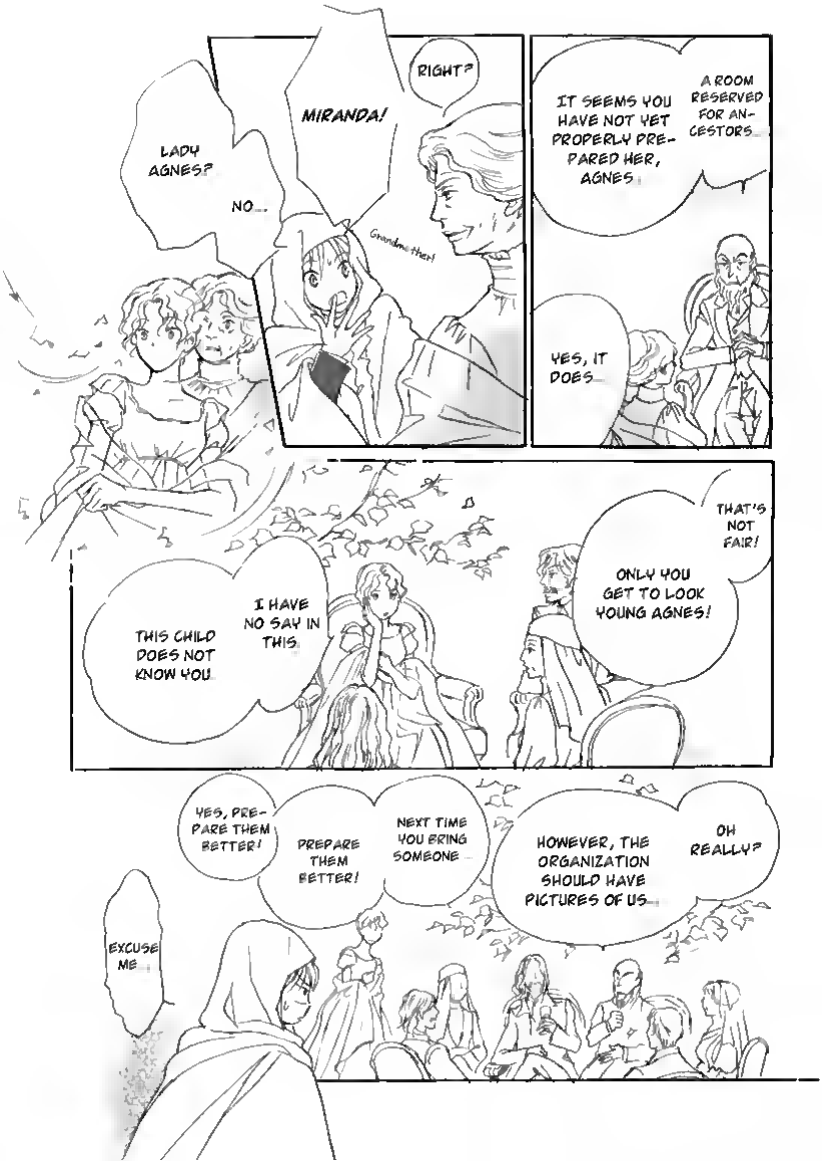

NOT POLITICIANS
WE ARE WIZARDS...
IN ANY CASE, THE INHERITOR IS NO MORE, NO LESS A GREAT MAGE TO WHICH...
IT IS CUSTOM TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE
OH WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS... INTERESTED IN POLITICS ANYWAY...
WHAT ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT?
WELL...
THE MOMENT I RECEIVED THE TITLE OF INHERITOR I HAD...
IT WAS AS IF MY PLAITS WERE NOT REALLY A MARK
IT WAS AS IF SOMETHING MORE IMPOR-TANT WAS WAITING FOR ME...
SOME SORT OF REVELATION...
ALSO...
THERE'S ALSO THIS TALK ABOUT THE STONE...
...heard any of this...
I have never...
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE EXAGGERA-TING A BIT...?

I AM STILL NOT ABLE TO FREE MYSELF FROM ITS MASTERY...
I WILL ONCE AGAIN BE ITS SLAVE, I'M SURE.
THE TITLE INHERITOR, IS NOTHING MORE THAN...
A SIMPLE ALLEGORY
It seems to me...
That she is making too much of the...
You think?
IT'S JUST SOMEONE WHO PICKED THE WRONG NUMBER
IN TRUTH, THE INHERITOR CAN'T REALLY GUARANTEE ANYONE'S SECURITY...
EVERYONE ONLY SPOKE OF LADY AGNES' INHERITANCE...
IT WAS IF NO ONE CRIED OVER HER DEATH...
OF COURSE THEY WERE SAD...

WE STILL MOURN FOR HER DEATH, BUT...
WE KNEW THAT...
AND THAT, LADY AGNES' TASK WAS NOT YET FINISHED.
A NEW GREAT GUARDIAN WOULD BE SELECTED...



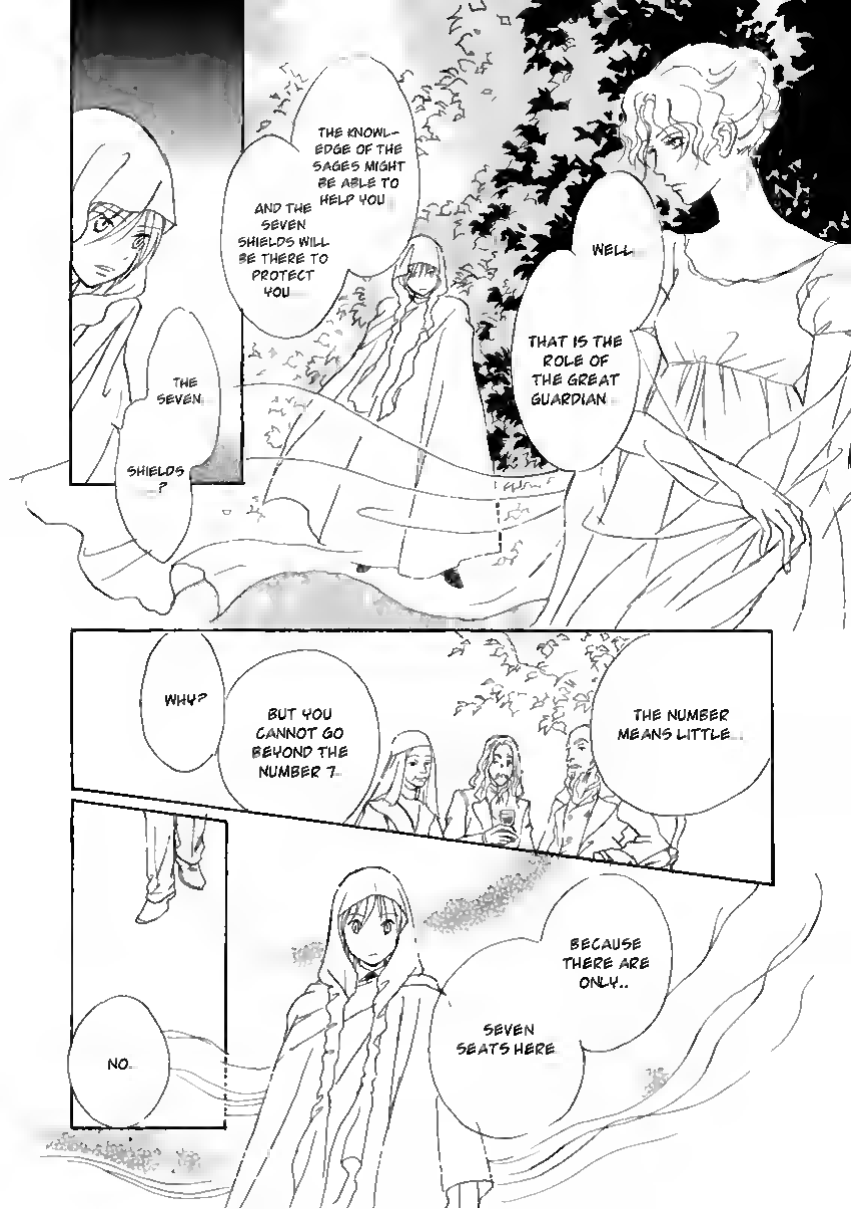
MY DEAR...
THAT IS THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE!
It's hazel
SO SORRY TO HAVE MADE YOU WAIT.
OH WELL, THESE ALL SEEM TO BE LATE GREETINGS
YES, YES!
WELCOME, CELESTE!
WHAT IS A TREE DOING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM?
BY ANY CHANCE IS THERE A ROOM RESERVED FOR ALGIE'S ANCESTORS...?


LADY AGNES?
NO...
MIRANDA!
RIGHT?
Grandmother!
IT SEEMS YOU HAVE NOT YET PROPERLY PREPARED HER, AGNES.
A ROOM RESERVED FOR ANCESTORS...
YES, IT DOES...
THIS CHILD DOES NOT KNOW YOU.
I HAVE NO SAY IN THIS.
ONLY YOU GET TO LOOK YOUNG AGNES!
THAT'S NOT FAIR!
EXCUSE ME...
YES, PREPARE THEM BETTER!
PREPARE THEM BETTER!
NEXT TIME YOU BRING SOMEONE...
HOWEVER, THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD HAVE PICTURES OF US...
OH REALLY?

THE GREAT GUARDIANS OF THE PAST ARE LOCATED...
THIS IS WHERE...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN HERE...
Are you stupid or what? You've already been here!
OH
THAT WAS WHY...
THE SAGES GARDEN...
IT WAS I THAT BROUGHT YOU HERE ONCE YOUR TASK ON EARTH WAS COMPLETE
I WAS, IN A MATTER OF WORDS, YOUR GUIDE...
Correct?
NO, THAT WAS MY TASK
OH REALLY? ARE YOU SURE?
BECAUSE I'M TELLING YOU!
What a bunch of crazy
IS SOMETHING WRONG, CELESTE?
NO, NOTHING...
Umm

MIRANDA ISN'T HERE...
IS SHE?
I TOO HAD HOPED
TO FIND HER HERE
LADY AGNES...
CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
ANYTHING
WHAT... TWENTY YEARS AGO, YOU SUCCEEDED IN STOPPING HERBERT...
HE IS DEAD
DEAD?
DOES THAT MEAN THAT THERE ISN'T ANY OTHER WAY, THAN TO...

UP UNTIL HIS LAST BREATH, HE HELD ON TO THE DARK SEED
IF HE LOST HIS LIFE...
IT WAS BECAUSE HE WAS TOO ATTACHED
IN THE END...
I DID NOT SOLVE ANYTHING AT ALL...
THIS TASK FALLS UPON YOU..
I'M SCARED, LADY AGNES
WITH MY STRENGTH
YOU REALLY WANT ME..
TO SEAL IT?


THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SAGES MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU
AND THE SEVEN SHIELDS WILL BE THERE TO PROTECT YOU
THE SEVEN SHIELDS ?
WELL
THAT IS THE ROLE OF THE GREAT GUARDIAN
WHY?
BUT YOU CANNOT GO BEYOND THE NUMBER 7
THE NUMBER MEANS LITTLE
NO
BECAUSE THERE ARE ONLY..
SEVEN SEATS HERE

HELLO, RUPERT!
RUPERT...
RUPERT...!
THERE ARE SEVEN AND A HALF RIGHT NOW...
OH, AGNES...
YOU STILL REMEMBER THIS APPEARANCE?
HOW COULD I FORGET?
THIS IS MY HUSBAND, RUPERT.
HE WAS MY MAIN SHIELD.
BY SHIELD, YOU MEAN TO SAY...
CELESTE...
YOU ARE JUST LIKE THE PORTRAIT.
IT WAS JUST BEFORE I MET YOU...

I THOUGHT ONLY THE GREAT GUARDIANS OF THE PAST WERE HERE...
THOSE WHO SERVED AS SHIELDS...?
WE WILL MEET AGAIN ON THE OTHER SIDE
ONLY A SMALL PART OF ME CAN COME HERE
THAT'S TRUE, BUT THERE ARE ALSO...
THOSE WHO SERVED AS SHIELDS...
YOU ARE THE NEW GUARDIAN?
THE LEFT HAND?
THE OTHER SIDE?
I THINK I UNDER-STAND...
CELESTE

GO...
YOU MUST RETURN NOW...
ハッ!

WERE YOU ABLE TO SEE LADY AGNES?
ON THE OTHER SIDE
AND THEIR SHIELDS
THE GREAT GUARDIANS OF THE PAST.
WE WILL MEET AGAIN...
VINCENT... ABOUT THE SEVEN SHIELDS...?
AH...
OF COURSE, THEY ARE ALWAYS AMONG US, BUT
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO CHOOSE THEM
IF YOU WISH, I CAN BECOME ONE OF YOUR SHIELDS
HUH? YOU, VINCENT?
BUT, BUT...
YOU ARE AN AU-THENT

VINCENT, DO YOU ACCEPT BECOMING ONE OF MY SHIELDS?!
THEN...
IN THAT CASE...
I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AIDE YOU
EXACTLY... AND THAT IS WHY, IF YOU ARE EVER IN DANGER...
Look at them! ^o^
BUT IF THE SHIELDS ARE THERE...
IT'S SOLELY TO PROTECT THE GREAT GUARDIAN
IT WOULD BE AN HONOUR
UWWAAA! I'M SO HAPPY!!
I'M YOUR MAIN SHIELD...
DO NOT FORGET THAT!
I can finally be praised in front of you! ^o^
SUCH NICE THINGS TO ME!!
WAAAH!
IT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SAID...

GAHH...
CHRIS!!
NO ONE ASKED YOU, YOU KNOW?
SAME HERE...
I DON'T HAVE THE HEART...
OWW!
パコ
WHAT KIND OF MANNERS ARE THOSE?! DON'T GO INSULTING MY ANGEL!
I'M ONLY DOING MY DUTY AS...
GUARDIAN.
NO WAY! I'M SURE YOU WILL DO EVERY-THING IN YOUR POWER SO THAT I DIE ASAP!
What was that?
OWW!!
パコ!!

HUH?
IT WAS...
DID YOU KNOW MIRANDA... WAS A MAIN SHIELD?
VINCENT...
ALEX?

NICOLAS AND I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
COULD YOU LEND US SOME OF YOUR TIME?
HUH?
MY SON DOES NOT UNDER-STAND
WHAT IS HAPPEN-ING
CELESTE...
THIS IS TROU-BLING HIM, REALLY...

NICOLAS ALSO REALIZED...
THAT ONLY THE GREAT GUARDIAN CAN STOP THE DARK SEED...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, NICHOLAS?
THAT'S WHAT HE WISHES FOR...
BUT FOR THE TIME BEING..
AS LONG AS HIS SPIRIT IS SO UNSTABLE...
HE ONLY NEEDS...
TO HAVE THE NEW GUARDIAN BESIDE HIM.

WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED THE APPROVAL OF THE ORGANIZATION
I'M VERY WORRIED...
AND YOU CELESTE, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
.....
PRESIDENT.
FOR THE TIME BEING, WE DO NOT HAVE A CHOICE, CELESTE
THE ORGANIZATION...
MUST KEEP AN EYE ON HIM

BIG BROTH-ER...
BEFORE THE DARK SEED COMPLETELY AWAKENS WITHIN HIM
WE STILL NEED SOME TIME...
ALGIE...

"STILL NEED SOME TIME"?
THE PRESIDENT CAN'T BE SERIOUS?! EITHER THAT OR HE'S BLIND!
BLOODY HELL! IT'S OBVIOUS THAT HE'S NOT NORMAL!
YOU HAVE TO BE BLIND TO NOT NOTICE!
AND WHAT'S HE DOING, ALGIE?!
IS HE ON HIS SIDE, OR WHAT?!
His little brother gives me the creeps!
NICOLAS DECIDED THIS.
IT TAKES A GREAT WILL TO GO AGAINST THE DARK SEED.
THE ORGANIZATION COULD NOT ACCEPT HIS RESOLUTION.

DON'T THEY EVER GET DIRTY?
THEY SAY THAT WE NEED TO STOP THAT GUY...
BUT HOW DO THEY EXPECT ME TO...
THAT ALSO TROUBLES ME..
WELL THEN, I SAY IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THEY ELECTED PEOPLE WHO WERE READY TO TAKE ACTION!!
You only need to look at their portrait to see that something isn't right!!
That's not exactly what I'm talking about...
WHEN IT COMES TO THOSE DECREPIT OLD SAGES, THEY DON'T CONVINCE ME AT ALL!!
THE ORGANIZATION IS A...
NEUTRAL SYSTEM
RATHER THAN USING BRUTE FORCE..
THEY PREFER FINDING PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS
THAT IS THE CRITERIA UPON WHICH MEMBERS ARE CHOSEN TO ENTER INTO THE ORGANIZATION
THOSE WHO MAKE UP THE ORGANIZATION POSSES NO INFLUENCE

ARE PUTTING YOU IN A SITUATION THAT MIGHT BECOME DANGEROUS
YOUR ANXIETY AND LACK OF TRUST...
EVEN THOUGH WE CANNOT ALWAYS DEPEND ON YOU.
YOU WOULD DO BETTER...
TO TRUST IN YOURSELF A BIT MORE.
THE ONE CHOSEN TO BECOME THE INHERITOR,
WAS NONE OTHER THAN YOU, CELESTE
KNOW THAT THEY...
ALL TRUST IN YOU.

KYAA
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL BECOME MY TEACHER!
YES...
SAY, VINCENT
A WHILE AGO, DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING WEIRD ABOUT ALEX?
Ahh my angel smiled at me!
くらあ
YES, I NOTICED... BUT YOU KNOW, EVEN THOUGH SHE DOESN'T LOOK IT, SHE IS ALSO A SORCERESS...
AND MY GUARDIAN.
えぇっ
ALEX?!
YES, BUT SHE ISN'T VERY GOOD WITH MAGIC...
She was never very talented at the stuff...
ALEX? WAIT, I THINK I'VE HEARD THAT NAME SOMEWHERE BEFORE

IF WE DON'T SEPARATE HIM FROM THE SEED SOON... THE CONSEQUENCES COULD BE IRREVERSIBLE...
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, BUT...
I THINK...
SHE IS THE PERSON MOST QUALIFIED TO BE TAKING CARE OF NICOLAS.
IT SEEMS THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME LEFT FOR THAT BOY...

第8話 End

Happy Birthday
Have a good one, monkey. Nice to have you back. back to me too. -Bari
Happy birthday you poop chuck killing monkey!! I hope you have a great one so hurry and come back to me too. you damn monkey. Happy birthday Te amo rangitane peuppyhead -Mai
Hey ignoring me, so have a happy birthday -Mai
Happy birthday dear Jacky, Happy birthday to you, you smell like a monkey and you're one too. With love from your son, Mai
Herzlichen Glückwunsch alles Gute from Germany! -Kai

KoNNa Kita

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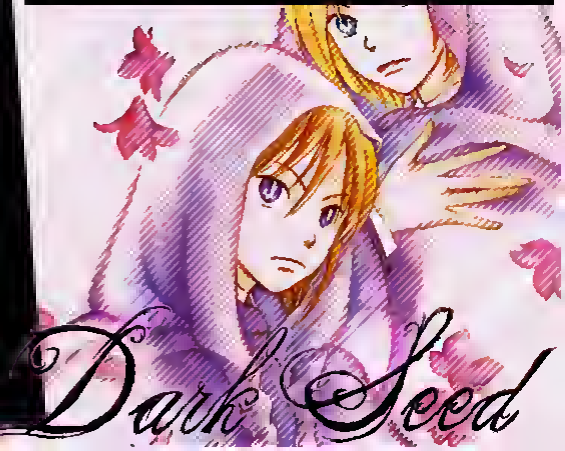

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Sure ...
But ... how?

# 9

# BROTHERS

WHO IS...
THAT PERSON STANDING NEXT TO ALEX?
The one who looks to be Algie's age...
OH, WELL..
THAT'S NICOLAS, ALGIE'S YOUNGER BROTHER!
OH? THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS SICK?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THAT CHILD IS NOT NEARLY OLD ENOUGH!
YOU THERE!
FATHER
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I WILL LOOK INTO THIS...
PERHAPS THIS STRANGE CHILD HAS SOME CONNECTION WITH HER..?
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, YES AND THERE IS ALSO THIS BUSINESS ABOUT THE YOUNG HEIR...

THANK YOU...
UNCLE RONALD.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
UP YOU GO...
NICO-LAS
Hello
ACTU-ALLY..
HE'S JUST A GOOD BOY.
He seems different from Algie...

WHAT IS IT?
I WAS NOT EXPECTING THE BURIAL TO ATTRACT SUCH A CROWD...
IT'S A BIT DISCOURAGING...
WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN THINGS WILL CALM DOWN...
ALSO...
LADY AGNES CERTAINLY NEVER WISHED FOR THINGS TO BECOME SO COMPLICATED...
The queen even came to Ellsworth's in disguise the other day
EVEN THE QUEEN SEEMS TO BE WITH THEM ..
I'm a bit disappointed
UNTIL THIS BUSINESS ABOUT THE INHERITANCE IS SOLVED, THESE PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS BE HERE...

A MERCHANT SPOKE OF A GREAT TREASURE GIVEN TO THAT PERSON
AND I AM UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ELLSWORTH'S...
ON OUR WALK HERE, I HEARD RUMORS...
ABOUT LADY AGNES AND HER HEIR
BELIEVE THAT I HAVE STOLEN SOME FABULOUS TREASURE...
I THOUGHT THAT THINGS WOULD SETTLE DOWN IF I CAME HERE...
ONE ONLY NEEDS TO SEE THE MANNER IN WHICH CLEA'S FATHER STARES AT ME...
WHY CAN'T I JUST TELL THEM THE TRUTH?
The heir receives no treasure!
IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT HIDING IT...
If they have a problem with me why not come out and say it?!
GASP
IT'S AS IF MY LIFE IS BEING THREAT-ENED!!

BEFORE YOU RETURN TO ELFIN-WOOD..
I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESI-DENT..
HUH?!
HMM...
NOTHING ESCAPES THE ORGANISATION ON THE SUB-JECT OF MAGIC
BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE BETTER LEFT UNSAID AS TO NOT USELESSLY SCARE PEOPLE.
IF YOU WERE CHOSEN AS INHERITOR ABOVE ALL OTHERS, THEN THERE MUST BE A PARTICU-LAR REASON.
WITH TIME, YOU WILL DISCOVER THE TRUTH
I STILL HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL?
And my work?
OBVI-OUSLY!!
thoth
OUCH!

BUT BEFORE THAT...
きゃっ、きゃっ。
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
IT'S NOT LIKE I ABSOLUTELY WANTED TO STAY WITH THE LIKES OF YOU!
E/N: Girl should be grateful she even has magic powers!!
きゃ
Be quiet you're nothing more than dirt!
It's funny because I have your scent inside! I happened to try that!
Stop it or I'll get really angry!
きゃ
Oh really? I would love to see that!
THESE YOUNG GIRLS ARE GREATLY IN NEED OF A MORE RE-FINED EDUCA-TION
SORRY ABOUT THAT—

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU IN GOOD HEALTH.
I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR STORY ONCE MORE, IF POSSIBLE.
AH, MISTER PRESIDENT.
CAT!
IT HAPPENED...
WHEN I WAS JUST ABOUT YOUR AGE...
REALLY?
THIS YOUNG GIRL IS THE ONE WHO WAS SELECTED TO SUCCEED LADY AGNES?

LADY AGNES SAVED MY LIFE.
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, IT TOOK ALMOST NOTHING TO GET ME SICK.
ALSO, I WAS VERY CHOLERIC.
I REALLY WAS NOT AN EASY CHILD TO DEAL WITH.
AT ONE TIME, I WAS SO ANGRY THAT I JUST COULDN'T CONTROL MYSELF.
ENDED UP IN PIECES.
EVERYTHING FELT UPSIDE DOWN!
THE SMALLEST THING I TOUCHED...

OH WELL...
IT'S TRUE THAT I HAD SOME MAGICAL GIFTS...
BUT IN NO WAY DID I THINK THAT MY STRENGTH..
WOULD DRASTICALLY CHANGE..
IT WAS LIKE A CURSE..
FROM WHAT MY FAMILY AND NEIGHBOURS SAID, I BECAME FRIGHTFUL..
BUT, IT WAS I WHO WAS THE MOST AFRAID
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I ENJOYED THE OUTDOORS...
BUT MY BODY WAS QUICKLY CONTAMINATED BY THE POISON CONTAINED IN THE MAGIC STONE
I WAS REASSURED WHEN THE ORGANISATION CAME AND SAVED ME..

I THOUGHT I COULD TEACH MYSELF MAGIC ALONE
BUT I WAS WRONG
THEN LADY AGNES CAME AND SHE CURED ME
BY SEALING THE POISON THAT FLOWED THROUGH MY VEINS
I WAS IN SUCH GOOD HEALTH AFTER THAT, THAT EVEN MY FAMILY DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME
THUS ERASING ANY POWER I EVER HAD
DO I REGRET LOSING MY POWERS?
I WOULD BE LYING TO YOU IF I SAID NO, BUT
MY LIFE WAS SO MUCH BETTER AFTER I LOST THEM
IT WAS TRUE HAP-PINESS!
AND I WILL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL TO LADY AGNES

THERE, THAT IS THE WORK OF THE GREAT GUARDIAN...
A GREAT NUMBER OF THEM... WISH FOR THEIR POWERS TO BE SEALED
THE INCIDENT CONCERNING HERBERT TWENTY YEARS AGO... IS A SPECIAL CASE...
AND ON THE SUBJECT OF NICOLAS, THERE IS NO NEED TO RUSH
SINCE WE HAVE ARRANGED SOMETHING WITH HIM, THERE SHOULD BE NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN
They have to wish for it themselves...?

But him... I'm sure he's hiding something...!
HE SEEMS A LOT LESS TIRED, DON'T YOU THINK?
MADGE
DOESN'T THIS BOTHER YOU...
WHAT?
NO MATTER WHAT NICOLAS IS...
IN THE BEGINNING, THIS SURPRISED ME A BIT...
BUT AFTER ALL, THE YOUNG MASTER IS A TRUE DESCENDANT OF LADY AGNES...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP
I'M SURE THAT DEEP WITHIN HIM LIES A SPECIAL POWER
HER-BERT...?

ぱち
BIG BROTHER...?
HUH?
BIG BROTH-ER!!
NICOLAS...
WHAT IS IT...?
I CAN FINALLY SEE YOU... BIG BROTHER...!
IS IT REALLY YOU BIG BROTHER?

BACK THERE...
IT'S SO COLD...AND SO DARK...
AND THERE ARE NO SOUNDS...
NICO...
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK!!
I DON'T WANT...
HELP ME, BIG BROTHER!
CALM DOWN, YOU ARE...
NICO-LAS...
NICO-LAS ?
EXCEPT HIS VOICE...
YOUR...
REUNION ENDS THERE.
NICO-LAS ?

ARE YOU GOING TO TRY AND ESCAPE? YOU CAN'T.
WHERE IS NICO-LAS?
WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY LITTLE BROTH-ER...?
YOUR LITTLE BROTHER? HE'S HERE
YOU...
THAT TIME...
THAT'S BETTER, IT'S QUIETED DOWN NOW.
TCH! HE'S STILL THERE CRYING...
WOULD HE JUST SHUT UP ALREADY!
WHAT ARE YOU

I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU, IT WOULD DO YOU GOOD TO NOT ANNOY ME, ALGIE
IF YOU'RE THAT WORRIED ABOUT HIM...
THEN YOU'D BETTER NOT GO AGAINST ME
WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY LITTLE BROTHER?!
ANSWER ME, HERBERT!!
JUST WHAT IS YOUR PLAN...?
WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE THINKING, HERBERT...
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE...
WHY IS IT THAT THOSE WHO HAVE MAGICAL POWERS IN THEM ARE SO WEAK...?
DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW THE REASON?

HOW IS CELIA?
EUGENE...
SHE STILL NEEDS TO REST A BIT MORE.
WE THINK THAT THE TRIP BY BAROUCHE TIRED HER OUT.
I believe he went into town.
AH, THAT'S TRUE...
WE'LL HAVE TO ALERT COUNT ADOLF...
VIN-CENT?
VIN...

I SEE...
THEY JUST LEFT FOR ELFINWOOD
ARE THE CHILDREN WELL...?
I WILL GO CHECK UP ON NICOLAS.
ALEX...
VIN-CENT...?
WHAT?!

YOU ARE BACK TO YOUR NORMAL SELF NOW.
.....
ALEX...
I...
I...
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME ..?
I WONDER IF ANYTHING INTEREST-ING HAP-PENED ..
DURING OUR ABSENCE.

ガラ
ガラ
ガラ
ACTUALLY, WHERE'S CLEA?
SHE'S NOT COMING BACK WITH US?
SHE ALREADY LEFT WITH HER PAR-- ENTS
しーん
WHAT...?
IT'S YOUR HAT, IT'S WEIRD.
IT REALLY SUITS ME, DON'T YOU THINK? ALEX TOLD ME I WAS CUTE WITH IT ON!
ALEX? THAT'S YOUR MOTHER, RIGHT?
Then why is Celeste so familiar with her?

EVENT? ALEX.
?
HUH...
AND FOR MANY OTHER OCCASIONS! ♡
SHE TOLD ME THAT SHE ALREADY WORE IT TO EVENTS...
IS IT..
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THAT WOMAN IS..
So, now you get it?
YES, SHE IS THE ALEX BATRA!
And you were that close to her - I am so jealous!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER?!!
You too, Algie!
THIS IS NOT GOOD...

HE...HE IS NO LONGER NICOLAS!
IT PISSES ME OFF TO KNOW THAT SOME CHILD PLAYED WITH MY EMOTIONS!
With such an expression you look just like Vincent
UNCONSCIOUSLY, YOU MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT HE WAS NOT NICOLAS
BUT YOU DID ASK THE GREAT GUARDIAN TO SEAL AWAY HIS POWERS...
EUGENE...
HE ALREADY MANAGED TO PERSUADE ME...
INTO DOING WHATEVER HE WANTED...
You're hurting me...
VINCENT!
NO MATTER AS TO HOW, WE WILL SAVE NICOLAS FROM THIS EVIL!

I'M HAPPY...
My back hurts
WHY?
YOU ARE AN ELLSWORTH.
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE ON HIS SIDE.
THE FACT THAT WE EVEN CAME BACK TO SCHOOL TOGETHER
THAT SURPRISED ME...
I...

I...
LIKE VINCENT, WOULD HAVE LIKED TO BE YOUR PRO-TECTOR...
ALGIE..
TO BE THERE WHEN YOU FEEL LOST.
I TOO WANTED TO BE ONE OF YOUR SHIELDS!
AT THE VERY LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...
BUT I CANNOT... I CAN'T...
I...
AFTER ALL...
YOU DO NOT TRUST ME...
ALGIE..
DO NOT COME NEAR ME!
YOUR "WIND" WAS RIGHT...
Algie, what are you...

The wind began to whistle.
At that time...
Algie, can I trust you?
I got the feeling that I was once utterly forgotten
ALGIE...
THEY'RE BACK, THERE THEY ARE!!
CHRIS...?
CHRIS?
IS THAT YOU CHRIS?
CHRIS?
GIVE ME A BREAK!
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE A BOY!
WITH THAT HAIR-CUT...

CE-
LESTE.
SO
HOW ARE YOU? IS EVERYONE ALRIGHT?
WE...
WE.
WE...
WE...
CE-
LESTE!
YOUR HAT IS WEIRD!
GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK,
CELESTE.
I'm so happy to see you again!
RIJIE...

IT SEEMS LIKE A LOT HAPPENED!
SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED TO ME!
HERE TOO, THERE WAS AN EVENT THAT SHOOK THE ENTIRE SCHOOL.
CELESTE ADOLE JUST BECAME THE MOST POPULAR STUDENT AT ELFINWOOD.
EVER SINCE LADY AGNES' PASSING, THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS HERE AND THERE ABOUT YOU.
AND THAT IS WHY...
WHY CELESTE ..?
SHE'S THE HEIR..
LOOK, IT'S HER..
EVER SINCE A WHILE AGO, THEY'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRDLY.
I see
BE CAREFUL, CELESTE,
YOU SHOULD BE WEARY OF THOSE GIRLS WHO WOULD TRY AND BEFRIEND YOU.

CE-
LESTE...
DON'T WORRY, RIJIE, EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE!
IN THAT CASE, I WILL BE THE ONE TAKING ADVANTAGE!
AH... ♡
IT'S LIKE I THOUGHT, EVERYTHING IS CALM HERE.
THE ELLSWORTH MANOR WAS MUCH TOO BIG, I FELT SO OUT OF PLACE THERE IT WAS AS IF I WAS SUFFOCATING!
AND SINCE I WAS CONSTANTLY SURROUNDED BY ADULTS, I HAD TO BE SERIOUS ALL THE TIME
THE IMPORTANT EVENTS HAPPENED ONE AFTER THE OTHER
I WAS VISITED BY THE QUEEN HERSELF, AND THEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANISATION. I WAS SO BUSY
AND I EVEN MET WITH ALGIE IN THE GREENHOUSE
She met the queen?
Meeting with Algie?!

THIS SUMPTUOUS MAGICIAN...
IT'S TRUE, AND YOU ALL KNOW WHY.
SERIOUSLY... I WAS JUST SO BUSY.
THE HEIR...
しら～
WAS CHOSEN AS THE INHERITOR...
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE THAT I
AFTER ALL, I'M NOTHING SPECIAL OR SUPERIOR TO YOU ALL.
WHAT IS SHE TRYING TO DO?
THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME...
WOULD BE ABLE TO BECOME THE HEIR...
DON'T YOU FIND THAT STRANGE?

I FEEL SO ALONE...
THIS TITLE IS SUCH A HEAVY BURDEN...
I WOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT OF MY FRIENDS...
BUT I THOUGHT THAT WHEN I CAME HERE...
YOU ARE NOT ALONE!
DON'T SAY THAT, CELESTE!
WE WILL FOLLOW YOU, CELESTE!
YOU HAVE ALL OF OUR SUPPORT!
THAT'S RIGHT, CELESTE!
It's just the girls causing mayhem
What's going on?
AFTER ALL....
YOU ARE OUR FRIEND!
YOU GUYS...

SHE'S RATHER GIFTED, THAT GIRL.
KELLY!
I MUST SAY THAT SHE DID WELL TO ARRANGE THINGS LIKE THAT..
寒っ!
GAH, IT'S GIVING ME GOOSE BUMPS.
THAT LOOK SUITS YOU.
YOU LOOK MUCH MORE MATURE.
HUH?
OH, NOW THEN.
SOMETHING SEEMS DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU AS WELL.
I CAN UNDERSTAND.
WHY RIJIE WAS AGAINST HER ENTRY IN THE GROUP.
At our core we really aren't that nice.

KELLY!
AH, THERE YOU ARE!
DID SOME-- THING HAPPEN?
TAKE THAT SMUG SMILE OFF YOUR FACE, KELLY!
THERE'S REALLY NOTHING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT...
WHETHER IT'S THAT GIRL WHO WAS CHOSEN AS THE HEIR...
I JUST CAN'T BE-- LIEVE IT!

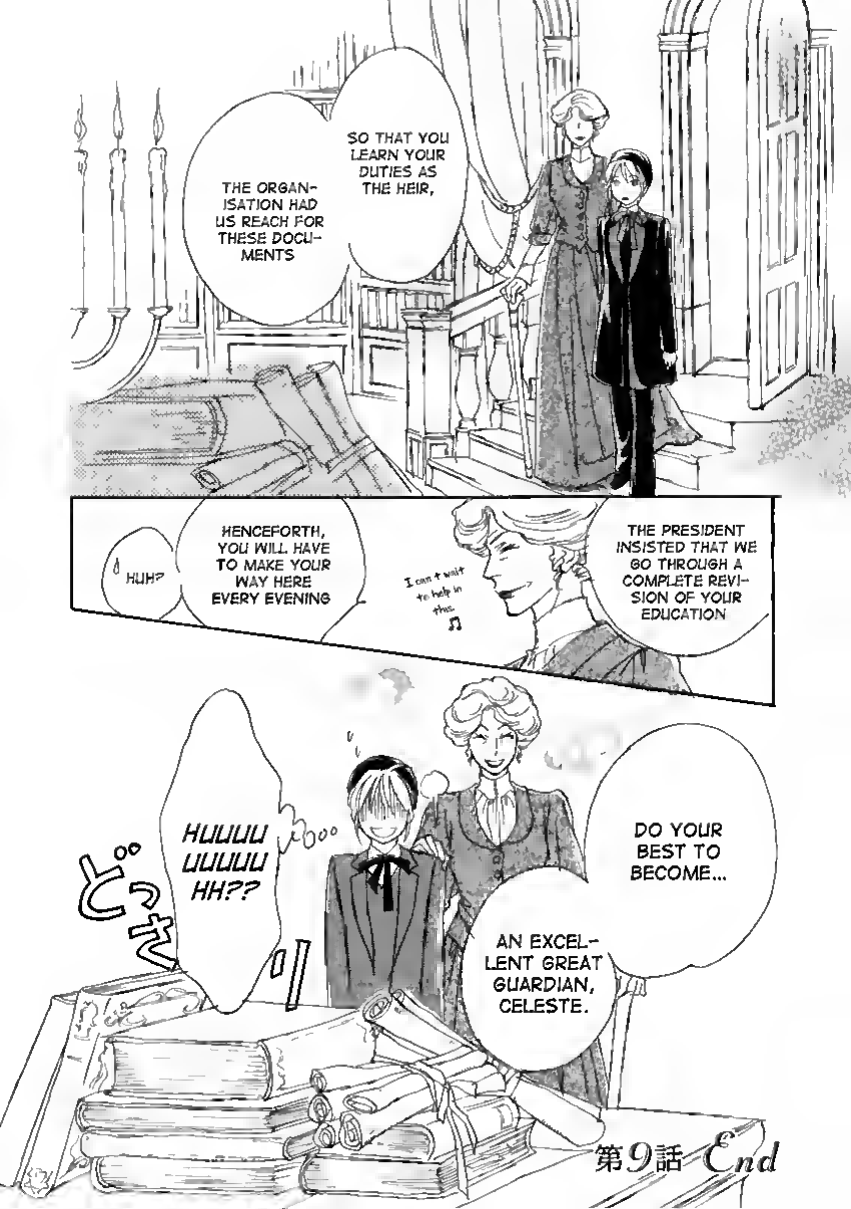
IT WAS FORE-MOST...
I WAS CONVINCED THAT LADY AGNES' SUC-CESSOR..
WOULD BE ALGIE
TO BECOME HIS "SHIELDS—"
SHOULD HE BECOME THE INHERITOR
IF THERE WAS EVER A REASON WHY WE FORMED THIS LEAGUE...
I WONDER WHAT ALGIE THINKS OF ALL THIS.
NO...
I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT HE REALLY WANTED
YOU SEEM SURE OF YOURSELF.

IT SEEMS LIKE CLEA...
HEARD AN INTERESTING CONVERSATION AMONGST THE ORGANISATIONS MEMBERS.
I BELIEVE HE'S ALREADY RETURNED,
WHAT DID HE TELL YOU?
I HAVE NOT YET SEEN HIM.
THE DARK SEED...
HAS AWOKEN.
THE DARK SEED...?

WAS THERE ALWAYS A TAIL ON YOUR HAT?
A TAIL?
IT'S AWAK-ENED...?
THIS...
HERE
QUICK, MAKE IT LEAVE!
IT'S SCARING DON!
DID YOU FOLLOW ME BY CHANCE?
AHH!
THE RABBIT!
KY-AAAH-HH!!

TRAI-
TORS!
What's that?
THAT ME AND DON ARE MADLY IN LOVE...
Chu
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU SHOULD AL-READY KNOW...
Hey
SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME DON'S MISTRESS?
CELESTE ADOLE
THE HEAD-MISTRESS WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU.

THE ORGANISATION HAS INFORMED ME ON ALL THAT HAS TRANSPIRED
IT SEEMS THAT IT NOW FALLS TO YOU.
TO HANDLE ALL THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GREAT GUARDIAN
She sure is really straight, just like a post
ELFINWOOD WILL HELP YOU DEVELOP YOUR CAPABILITIES.
AFTER ALL, YOU STILL HAVE THE SPIRIT OF A CHILD.
YOUR NEW STATUS DOES NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU ARE STILL ONE OF OUR STUDENTS
AND I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY SPECIAL TREATMENT.
IN THAT CASE, THIS WAY, CELESTE.


THE ORGANISATION HAD US REACH FOR THESE DOCUMENTS
SO THAT YOU LEARN YOUR DUTIES AS THE HEIR,
THE PRESIDENT INSISTED THAT WE GO THROUGH A COMPLETE REVISION OF YOUR EDUCATION
I can't wait to help in this ♫
HENCEFORTH, YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE YOUR WAY HERE EVERY EVENING
HUH?
どさ
HUUUUUUUUHH??
DO YOUR BEST TO BECOME...
AN EXCELLENT GREAT GUARDIAN, CELESTE.

第9話 End

Konna Kita

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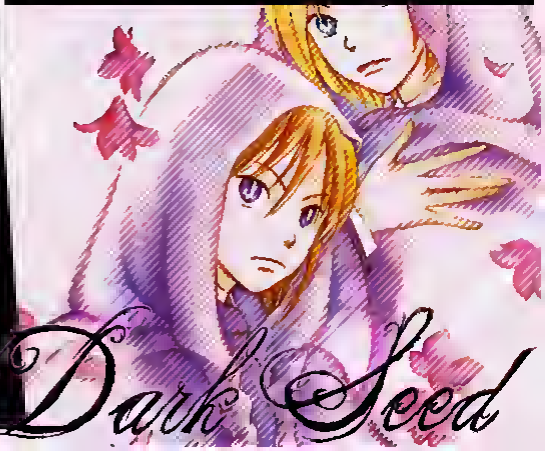
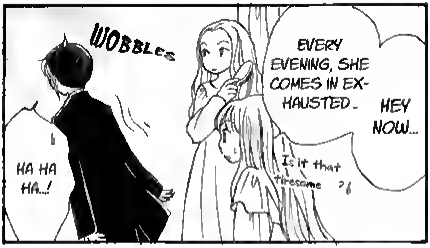


# Dark Seed

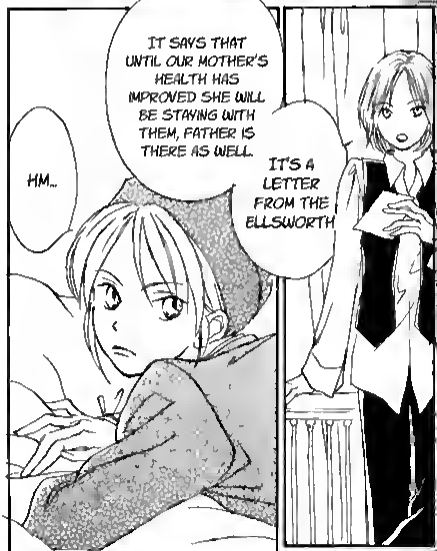
You seem to enjoy what we release here at SR°MU.
Would you like to help us release more of your favorite manga?
GLARE
Apply! We need Japanese Translators! Editors! Quality Checkers! And all sorts of people to help us out!
How you say?
Sure ...
But ... how?

第10話
INTENTION

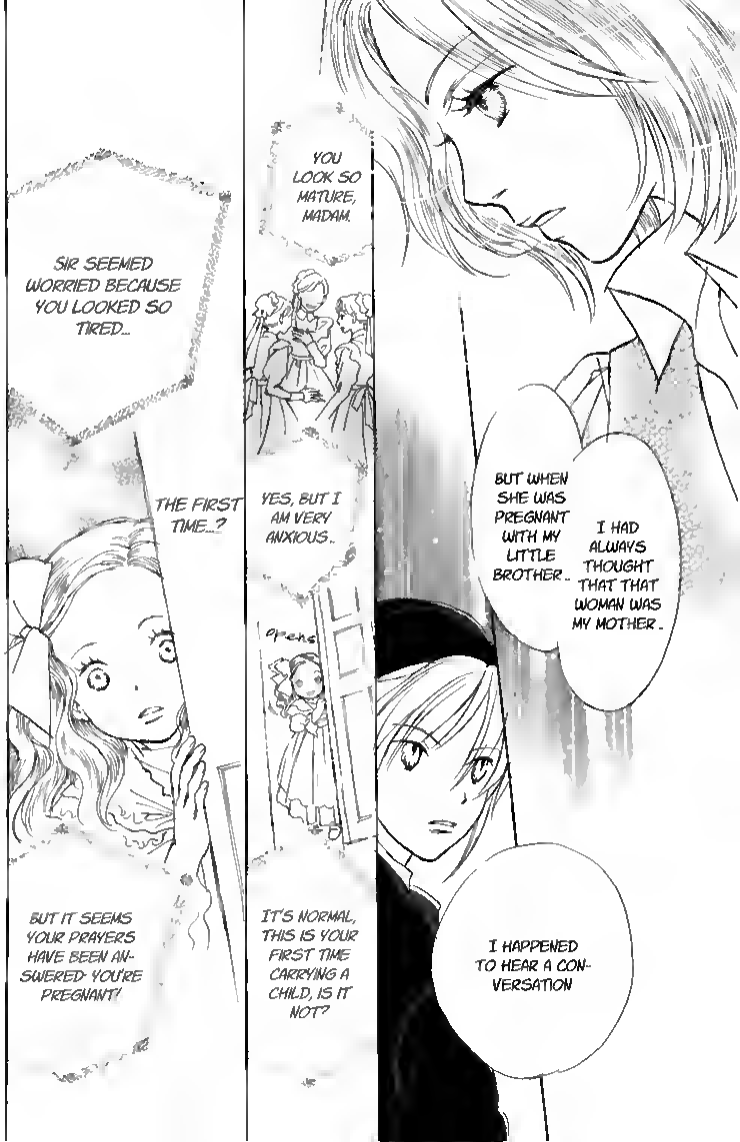

WOBBLes
EVERY EVENING, SHE COMES IN EXHAUSTED.
HEY NOW...
Is it that tiresome ?
HA HA HA..!

IT'S ME..

ARG.. NO COME BACK LATER..
CE-LESTE.


IT SAYS THAT UNTIL OUR MOTHER'S HEALTH HAS IMPROVED SHE WILL BE STAYING WITH THEM, FATHER IS THERE AS WELL.
IT'S A LETTER FROM THE ELLSWORTH
HM..

HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN?
CHRIS!
THAT'S ALL.
KNOWN WHAT?
THAT YOU AND I..
ARE TWINS
Big sister can you show me another magic trick?
YES
CORIN?
MY MOTHER..
ALSO, I UNDERSTOOD IT WHEN CELIA HAD MY LITTLE BROTHER.
A LITTLE WHILE AFTER FINDING OUT I HAD A SISTER


I HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THAT WOMAN WAS MY MOTHER.
BUT WHEN SHE WAS PREGNANT WITH MY LITTLE BROTHER..
I HAPPENED TO HEAR A CONVERSATION
YOU LOOK SO MATURE, MADAM.
SIR SEEMED WORRIED BECAUSE YOU LOOKED SO TIRED...
YES, BUT I AM VERY ANXIOUS..
THE FIRST TIME...?
opens
IT'S NORMAL, THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME CARRYING A CHILD, IS IT NOT?
BUT IT SEEMS YOUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED. YOU'RE PREGNANT!

I THOUGHT ...
THAT I WANTED TO KNOW THE TRUTH...
I DID NOT WANT TO BE LIED TO..
EVEN IF I WAS IGNORING ALL THE TRUTH THAT AWAITED ME..
I ASKED MYSELF WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER
KNOWING NOTHING, OR..
NOT KNOWING THE TRUTH..
EVERYONE WAS SO HAPPY THAT NO ONE WAS REALLY PAYING ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY WERE SAYING..
DURING MOTHER'S PREGNANCY...
SO THAT MEANS..
I'M NOT THEIR CHILD?
THAT MEANS THAT I'M NOT MOTHER'S CHILD ANYMORE?

RUMOURS SPREAD FAST!
RIJIE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME..
BUT..
IT'S STILL JUST A RUMOUR, BUT..
I HEARD THAT THE DARK SEED HAS AWAKENED..
NOBODY REALLY UNDERSTANDS WHAT IT MEANS
IS IT SOMETHING IMPORTANT?
IT'S A MATTER THAT CONCERNS THE INHERITOR
ALGIE...
SPEAKING OF WHICH..
I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE YOU.
OH, SORRY!
BUT I GUESS IT WAS SOMETHING UNPREDICTABLE..

NO...
SOME PART OF ME KNEW THAT IT WOULD HAPPEN THIS WAY.
I ALWAYS HAD THIS FEELING THAT LADY AGNES' SUCCESSOR WOULD BE SOMEONE ELSE.
ON THE OTHER HAND...
I GET THE FEELING
MY WORK IS NOT FINISHED
YOU'RE VERY STRANGE...
THE MEMBERS OF THE "LEAGUE OF THE BLIND"...
THEY ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON, THEY ALL DISTRUST THEIR MAGICAL PARTNERS
TODAYS MAGICIANS GROW UP WITH FEELINGS OF DISSATISFACTION
IT'S BASED ON THAT VERY FEELING THAT WE ACCEPT MEMBERS INTO OUR ORGANISATION

KELLY...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT YOU'VE HAD TO SUFFER THE SAME KIND OF OPPRESSION THAT WE HAVE, BUT...
YOU WHO HAVE A SAINT FOR A TEACHER...YOU HAVE ALWAYS GROWN UP IN AN IDEAL ENVIRONMENT.
WHAT DISSATISFACTION COULD YOU BE FEELING?
SOMEONE LIKE YOU WHO HAS NO MAGICAL PARTNER TO SUPPORT...
TOWARDS YOU.
HOWEVER, THE PEOPLE WE HAVE RECRUITED SECRETLY IGNORED THAT THEY HAD A ROLE TO PLAY...
THEIR FEELINGS WOULD NOT HAVE CHANGED.
AND IF YOU HAD BECOME THE INHERITOR ...
THEY BELIEVED IN YOU.
BUT THEM...

IF YOU DON'T MIND YOURSELF...
BUT NEVERTHELESS, YOU CAN NO LONGER LEAD US ANYWHERE.
BECAUSE OF YOU...
THEY ARE ALL DISCOURAGED.
THE SITUATION MIGHT REVERSE..
ALGIE.
HUH...

PUSHY
IF YOU ALL SAY IT LIKE THAT I HAVE NO CHOICE...
SAY YES, COME ON!
PRETTY PLEASE, CELESTE!
COULD YOU PLEASE SHOW IT TO US? ♡
THE MARK OF THE INHERITOR?
IS IT TRUE THAT UNDER THAT HAT, THERE'S...
OKAY, BUT JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT!
BRAIDS?
BRAIDS...
How many braids does she have in total?
It looks like her hair grew
BRAIDS...?
SADLY!
THAT'S RIGHT
Braids...
AND... IT'S ALWAYS GOING TO STAY THAT WAY?
YOU CAN NEVER UNDO THEM?
MOVES AWAY

BUT.. BUT THAT MEANS THAT YOU CAN NO LONGER WASH YOUR HAIR..?
You can easily catch head lice!
You're the one who asked to see!
WHY DID YOU MOVE AWAY?
OH WELL..?
Who knows..
Is it true?
Rude!
I CAN VERY WELL WASH MYSELF!!
MY HAIR HAS A HABIT OF LOOSENING UP A BIT
ALSO, WHEN I WASH MY HAIR OR WHEN I SLEEP
YUP!
I THINK SO TOO!
A little boy
LIKE THOSE IN FLOWER-TOWN?!
EX-ACTLY!
IT MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE A LITTLE BOY!
BUT YOUR HAT..IT'S..
HOW DO I SAY THIS..
WHY DOES NONE OF THIS SURPRISE ME?
ALL THE BOYS THAT LIVE THERE..
ARE SUCH SNOBS!

ST...
STOP IT!
RIGHT?
He he he he
AFTER ALL, SHE KNOWS A LOT MORE ON THE SUBJECT THAN WE DO!
WE SHOULD ASK RIJIE WHAT SHE THINKS!
IN THIS PLACE, NONE OF THAT MATTERS.
NO MATTER WHERE WE COME FROM...
CLEA...
RIJIE IS NOT POOR!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
ANYWAYS, EVERYONE KNOWS RIJIE COMES FROM...
We were only joking!
WE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING HURTFUL...

RIJIE..?
WAIT, RIJIE!
WAIT!
AND THAT HAS NEVER SHAMED ME.
ME TOO, WHEN I BECAME A GUARDIAN, IT HELPED MY FAMILY LIVE MORE EASILY
IT HAS NO IMPORTANCE IF WE COME FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS
HUH?!
CALM DOWN.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? CLEA IS NICE!
I UNDERSTAND WHY RIJIE SEEMS DISGUSTED BY CLEA
YOU THEN, ARE REALLY INCAPABLE OF SEEING BEYOND THE SIMPLE APPEARANCE!
I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I, CELESTE?

RIJIE
THAT SUPPOSED GOODNESS DOES NOTHING MORE THAN HURT RIJIE
AND THAT WOUND WILL PROBABLY SCAR HER FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE
FOR RIJIE THAT'S..
HORRIBLY HUMILIATING
THE FACT THAT CLEA USES SUCH "PITIFUL" WORDS..
I HAVE THE IMPRESSION OF WATCHING A PUPPY TRYING TO TRAMPLE ON HER WORLD!
WHEN I LOOK..
HER CHARACTER DOESN'T SEEM NATURAL.
DON'T ANY OF YOU GET THE FEELING THAT SHE'S ONLY PRETENDING TO BE THAT GENTLE?
THEIR AURA IS WAY TOO DARK..!
Run away!
Quickly!
KeKeKe

CHRIS...
COULD CLEA DEPRESS YOU THAT MUCH??
RIJIE...
THIS IS ALL HER DOING
WHY YOU ARE IN SUCH A BAD MOOD
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND...
OH...
?
YOU SEEM DIFFERENT...
WITH THAT HAIR..

I DID THIS AS A SIGN OF MY DELIVER-ANCE.
BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
IT WAS TO BURY THIS OBSCURE MASS THAT CLUNG TO ME.
WHY...
AT THE RATE I WAS GOING, SHE WAS QUICKLY GOING TO BE JUSTIFIED
I DIDN'T WANT THAT...
IS IT ALWAYS
HER THAT THEY PREFER?
I'VE ALWAYS HAD FEELINGS OF ANGER AND INFERIORITY WHEN IT COMES TO CELESTE
BUT NOW...
IF I CONTINUE TO HAVE SUCH FEELINGS, I WILL BECOME USELESS
BUT THE SCARIEST THING IS THE ATTRAC-TION THE DARK HAS ON MY SOUL.
EVEN KNOWING THAT, I CANNOT JUST ERASE MY FEELINGS SO EASILY

ME, I DO NOT HAVE WINGS AND I DON'T WANT TO GRIEVE OVER MY LOT.
EVEN IF I ENVY THE BIRDS THAT FLY FREELY IN THE SKY.
SO, I CUT IT OFF.
BEFORE THE DARKNESS COULD EXERCISE ITS CONTROL OVER ME..
I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING
AFTER ALL, SINCE THE BEGINNING..
HUMANS ARE BEINGS DEVOID OF WINGS
THAT'S THE CONCLUSION I CAME TO
SO, I DECIDED TO STOP WANTING, AT ANY COST
AND..THAT'S WHY YOU CUT YOUR HAIR?

I HATE THEM ALL!
FRIENDS? WHAT, LIKE I NEED ANY!
SHE IS THE SAME AS THE OTHERS
IT'S LIKE I THOUGHT, WE CANNOT BECOME FRIENDS, RIJIE.
SINCE WE'RE PART OF THE "LEAGUE OF THE BLIND"
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.. WE DON'T NEED TO HAVE FRIENDS
WAS THAT CHRIS ADOLE?
AREN'T I YOUR "BEST FRIEND"?
OH? BUT YOU AT LEAST HAVE ONE.
RYAN...

CELIA!
ALEX
ARE YOU FEELING ANY BETTER?
I'M SORRY TO INTRUDE ON YOU LIKE THIS
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT, YOU SHOULDN'T STAND YET
I WAS UPSET BY..
THE WORDS OF YOUR SON..
I..
ALEX, I OWE YOU AN EXPLANATION
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
ALEX..
YOU WERE PREOCCUPIED BY WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO YOUR DAUGHTER
I UNDERSTAND ALL PARENTS ARE LIKE THAT

I I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD BECOME A "SHIELD"...
BUT FROM WHAT I HEAR, SO WAS LADY AGNES' HUSBAND
YES... I'M A NORMAL HUMAN..
BUT, HE..
BUT NOW, I REGRET MY WEAKNESS
THE POWER OF MAGIC HAS ALWAYS FRIGHTENED ME
YOU?
"ODIN'S KNIGHT!"
YOU SAW IT TOO?!
I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT I'M FIGHTING THE SAME WAY...
A KNIGHT FIGHTING WITH A SACRED BRANCH
MOVES
I WILL NEVER FORGET THOSE LINES!
I'VE GONE BACK TO SEE IT AT LEAST 5 TIMES!
"WHY IS IT THAT YOU.."
A WICKER AND GOLD BRANCH?

PAT
WHY IS IT THAT YOU...
HAVE TOUCHED ME WITH THIS SACRED BRANCH?
THE PAIN DISAPPEARED IN AN INSTANT
RIGHT NOW, I CAN REST SERENELY AND LIVE OUT THE REST OF MY LIFE.
OPEN YOUR EARS.
AND IN THE TWILIGHT OF NIGHT, LISTEN TO THE BEATING FAIRY WINGS
LOOK IN THE DISTANCE AND OBSERVE ITS FORMS THAT REFLECT THE BEING SO LOVED
THIS SIMPLE OUTSTRETCHED HAND CONTAINS A MYSTERIOUS STRENGTH
HENCEFORTH, I AM WITHOUT FEAR
BUT...
BUT...
BUT...
HOW IS THIS...

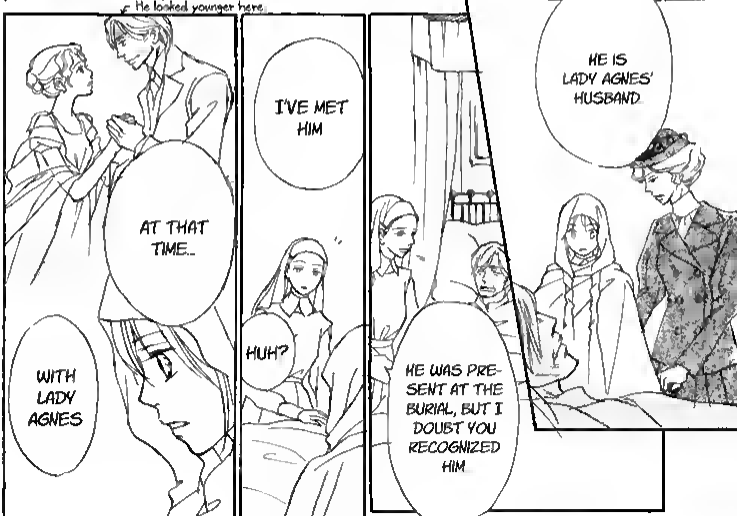
Wink Smile
SWOON
AH...WHAT TO DO...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
YES
ALEX BATRA!!
KYAAA♡
I'M ONE OF YOUR BIGGEST FANS!
I..I LOVE YOU!
bu-dump
HE LEFT FOR TOWN EARLY THIS MORNING
HE TOLD ME TO SAY GOODBYE.
I SEE.
He can't be away from his shop for too long
OH CELIA, YOU SEEM TO HAVE RECOVERED YOUR COLOUR
TO BEAT NOT GET ANYWHERE
ALEX, DID YOU HAPPEN TO SEE VINCENT?
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU BROTHER?
EUGENE.

IS SOMETHING HAPPENING?
I COULD AT LEAST...
SHE DOES NOT NEED TO KNOW!
WE HAVE OTHER PROBLEMS THAT NEED SOLVING
WHETHER HE IS THERE OR NOT DOES NOT CHANGE MUCH.
BUT...!
THIS IS ABOUT NICOLAS, ISN'T IT?
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING ON DOING?
BUT ALEX IS THE MOTHER OF MY CHILDREN!
EXACTLY, I DOUBT A MOTHER HAS THE QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED..
IN ORDER TO STOP HER OWN CHILD
THAT IS NOT WHAT THE ORGANISATION SAID!

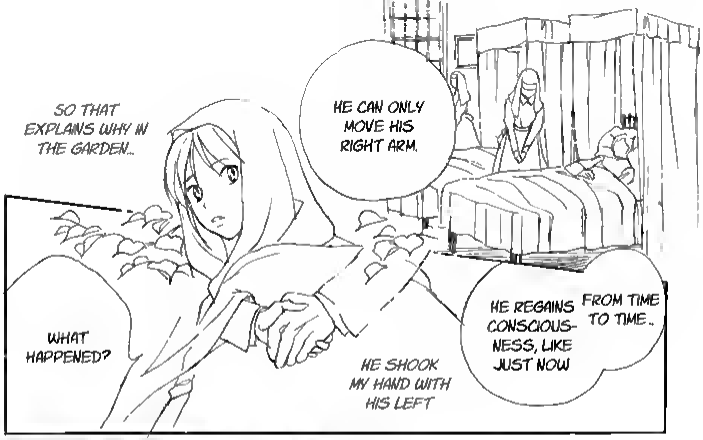
WHERE ARE WE?
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME COMING HERE?
YES.
THIS IS WHERE MAGICIANS GATHER...
WHOSE SOULS HAVE BEEN POSSESSED BY THE DARKNESS.
THEY COME HERE TO BE HEALED
THIS IS WHERE MAGICIANS GATHER WHOSE SOULS HAVE BEEN POSSESSED BY DARKNESS...?
THEIR SOULS ARE BUT A PACK OF SHADOWS, AND WHO KNOWS WHERE THEY MIGHT WANDER NOW
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THEY MIGHT NEVER RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL STATE

WHY IS IT THAT THERE ARE "WANDERING SOULS?"
DO NOT WORRY, THE SHADOWS CANNOT REACH YOU
Inexperienced
THE DARKNESS ALWAYS ATTACHES ITSELF...
TO THE INEXPERIENCED
HM, THERE ARE NUMEROUS REASONS...
BUT, THE MOST COMMON, ARE THOSE WHO REFUSE TO HAVE A GUARDIAN.
OR TO HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
THE BALANCE BETWEEN ONES SOUL AND POWER THEN BECOMES UNSTABLE.
WE WITNESS NUMEROUS CONCEALED CASES LIKE THAT.
THE SAME THING WAS WRITTEN IN ONE OF THE DOCUMENTS BY THE ORGANISATION
THAT'S WHY
THAT THE MAGICIANS OF OLD
WE SAY THAT GUARDIANS ARE PRECIOUS AND ESSENTIAL TO MAGICIANS
WERE TOO PROUD OF THEIR POWERS
AND REFUSED TO HAVE GUARDIANS
WELL,
WE'RE HERE.

HELLO
YOU SEEM TO BE DOING BETTER, RUPERT
RUPERT?


He looked younger here.
HE IS LADY AGNES' HUSBAND.
I'VE MET HIM
AT THAT TIME...
WITH LADY AGNES
HUH?
HE WAS PRESENT AT THE BURIAL, BUT I DOUBT YOU RECOGNIZED HIM.

BUT I DIDN'T THINK HE WAS..
SO THAT'S WHERE YOU MET HIM.
I SEE,
YES. HE WAS IN THE SAGES GARDEN.
THEN YOU'VE ALREADY MET RUPERT?


SO THAT EXPLAINS WHY IN THE GARDEN..
HE CAN ONLY MOVE HIS RIGHT ARM.
WHAT HAPPENED?
HE SHOOK MY HAND WITH HIS LEFT
HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS, LIKE JUST NOW
FROM TIME TO TIME..

RUPERT WAS THE ONLY ONE INJURED IN THE EVENT.
THAT WAS THE PRICE PAID..

HIS DUTY AS A SHIELD?
WAS IT.. BECAUSE OF HERBERT..? WHEN THEY TRIED TO SEAL HIM?
BUT..WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER SHIELDS?

HE DID NOTHING BUT..
HIS DUTY AS A SHIELD

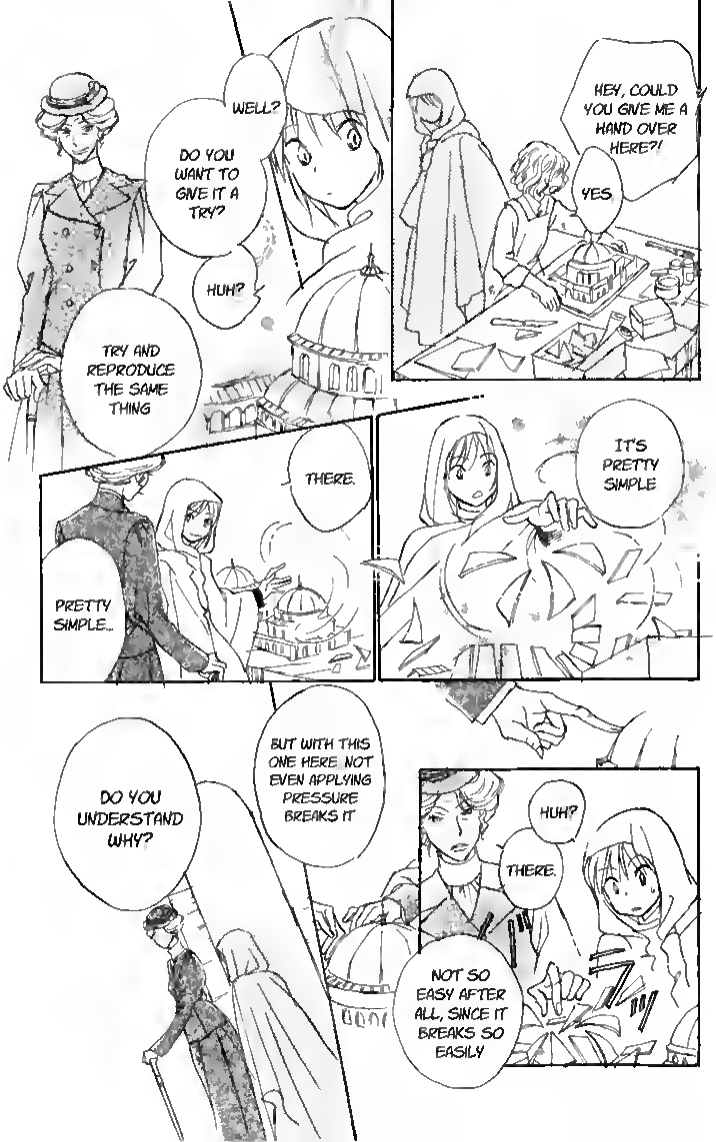
IN ORDER FOR LADY AGNES..
TO SEAL HERBERT'S POWERS
I..I..
I DIDN'T KNOW..
NEVER KNEW THAT
THEN VINCENT..
EVEN CHRIS..
ONE OF THEM WILL HAVE TO MAKE THE SAME SACRIFICE..
NO..
THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAS TO HAPPEN..
I... I CANNOT..
I WILL NEVER ALLOW IT!
EVEN IF HERBERT WAS SICK..
TO SACRIFICE SOMEONE..

THEN...
IF HIS HEALTH WAS THAT FRAGILE...
AND WHEN LADY AGNES WAS
SHE WASN'T ABLE TO HOLD THE SEAL...
BUT...I...
YOU MUST NOT
YOU MUST NOT BLURT OUT SUCH THINGS
WORDS HAVE POWER
SO, DO NOT BRING PAIN UPON YOURSELF

WE WILL TAKE A LITTLE DETOUR.

THE SHIELDS ARE THERE TO PROTECT THE HEIR.
NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND
THAT IS ONE OF THE THINGS EXPECTED OF THE HEIR
REMEMBER YOURSELF, CELESTE.

YOU SEEM BUSY
HEAD MISTRESS
THAT'S BECAUSE THE ANNUAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF HER MAJESTY IS COMING UP
I WAS JUST SHOWING THIS YOUNG GIRL THE AREA
OH, THEN BY ALL MEANS DON'T LET ME SLOW YOU DOWN
THANK YOU!
There'll be plenty of more during the celebration
IT'S THE QUEEN! on a brooch!
IF YOU WANT, I CAN GIVE THAT TO YOU.


HEY, COULD YOU GIVE ME A HAND OVER HERE?!
YES.
WELL?
DO YOU WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY?
HUH?
TRY AND REPRODUCE THE SAME THING
IT'S PRETTY SIMPLE
THERE.
PRETTY SIMPLE...
BUT WITH THIS ONE HERE NOT EVEN APPLYING PRESSURE BREAKS IT
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY?
HUH?
THERE.
NOT SO EASY AFTER ALL, SINCE IT BREAKS SO EASILY

THEREFORE, IT'S AS IF YOU DID NOTHING BUT CREATE AN ILLUSION
WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH IT WAS CREATED
ALL YOU DID WAS COPY THE OBJECT...
MAGIC ALLOWS US TO CHEAT
BUT IT CAN NEVER COMPARE TO THE ORIGINAL.
OF COURSE, YOU MUST NOT LOOK FOR WAYS TO RIVAL THESE CARPENTERS IN TECHNIQUE.
BUT TO PERFECT YOUR SOUL.
YOU STILL HAVE MUCH TO LEARN
INSIDE THEIR HANDS..
IT'S AS IF THERE LIES TRUTH
AND IN OURS?

THERE LIES DARKNESS AND LIGHT
THE POWER TO DESTROY AS WELL AS TO HEAL.
THE POWER TO TELEPORT ONE'S SELF,
IT IS SO EASY TO CREATE THINGS WITH MAGIC.
BUT HARDER TO ERASE THEM
THAT IT WHY ONE MUST LIMIT THEIR POWER...
TO A CERTAIN USE.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW WE ARE DIFFERENT?
THEY ARE ONLY PROUD HUMANS!
AND YOU, WHAT ABOUT YOURSELF?
FOR NOW, THERE IS NO WISDOM WITHIN YOU, YOU ARE STILL IGNORANT
AND SO, UNTIL YOU UNDERSTAND THAT USING MAGIC EXCESSIVELY IS DANGEROUS..
WHAT DO YOU SEE WITH YOUR EYES? WHAT DO YOU HEAR WITH YOUR EARS?
THERE IS NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
CELESTE.

VERY WELL, LET'S RETURN TO SCHOOL.

So, do you see something?
Hmm all I can see is a crowd
Oh, but I do hear some sort of song carried by the wind
I also smell something grilling.
As long as it's not only my imagination.
Each year, we're only allowed to look from here
It's nice that we don't have class today...
But we don't have the right to go outside.
If that's the case, why didn't you go?
Because I would have to take the headmistress along!!
And the queen will be there too!
Oh, how I would love to see the march!
To be frank, I thought you would have run away...
From all the responsibility from now on, whether those of the heir or of the great guardian
Since we're talking about you...
That's what you think.
Seeing as how I'm now able to move away from the stone!
The rabbit?

THOSE ROBES, AREN'T THEY THE ONES WORN BY THE ORGANISATION?
WHAT DOES SHE MEAN BY THAT..?
OH.
BUT YOU'RE NOT DOING SO BADLY!
YOU'RE BEEN RECEIVING A LOT OF THEM LATELY!
YOU RECEIVED ANOTHER LETTER?
CELESTE?

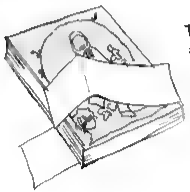
HUH? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
Who's that?
A new student?
You think so?
NICOLAS?
WHY...?
Huh, Nicolas?
Thierry, Nicolas?
SHOULD I NOT HAVE COME TO SEE YOU, BIG BROTHER?
DON'T WORRY
I DID NOT COME ALONE.

I SEE YOU'VE ALREADY RECEIVED THE NEWS
I THOUGHT YOU WERE AT UNCLE RONALD'S MANOR
YES,
HE'S RATHER NICE, AS SOON AS I MENTIONED SCHOOL...
HE IMMEDIATELY GAVE HIS CONSENT
SCHOOL...?
YES IF I CAME HERE...
WE WOULD NO LONGER BE FAR AWAY FROM EACH OTHER. SEEING EACH OTHER WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER
AFTER ALL I HAVE SO MANY THINGS TO ASK YOU, BIG BROTHER
IF THE GREAT GUARDIAN EVER CAME TO SEAL ME AWAY...
I WOULD RETURN TO BEING A DULL HUMAN
THEREFORE, IN THIS SCHOOL, I WILL MAKE IT MY DUTY TO PLAY THE PART OF A BORING HUMAN

FOR A BRAT LIKE YOU TO BE ABLE TO ENTER OUR SCHOOL...
IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR AN ASSEMBLY TO GATHER OR SOMETHING OF THE SORT TO TAKE PLACE.
KELLY
YO! YOU REALLY SURPRISED ME, IS IT REALLY YOU NICOLAS?
ALGIE..
WHO IS THAT?
WHY DOES HE KNOW ABOUT OUR SECRET?
ALGIE!
ARE THESE THE MEMBERS OF YOUR SECRET ORGANISATION?
OHHH..THIS IS GETTING FUN!

I MIGHT MAKE USE OF THEM, TOO?
YOU'VE ASSEMBLED A NICE TEAM OF HEROES, ALGIE
DO YOU THINK...

第10話 End



T'll next time in the third volume!

WHEN VINCENT WAS STILL A STUDENT, HE WAS KNOWN FOR BEING THE PRINCE OF FAINTING
ALEX!
IF ONLY THIS IDIOT ATE MORE!
ひょい
すた すた すた すた
He's so pitiful
Is that really the princess of our school
wow! school
THAT'S FANTASTIC, ALEX!
You're able to carry a boy as if it were nothing!
ASIDE FROM MY PHYSICAL STRENGTH...
I DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH POWER...

Konna Kita

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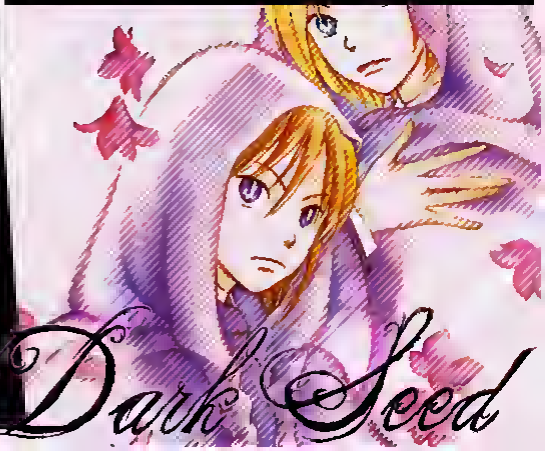

# Dark Seed

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How you say?
Sure ...
But ... how?